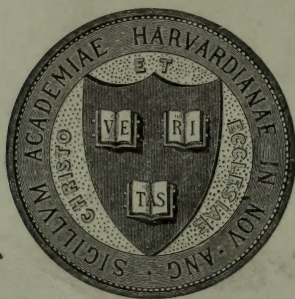


THE BIRDS
OF
HAMPSHIRE
AND THE
ISLE OF WIGHT

HARVARD UNIVERSITY.



LIBRARY

OF THE

MUSEUM OF COMPARATIVE ZOÖLOGY

52,788

BEQUEST OF

WILLIAM BREWSTER

November 24, 1919.

WILLIAM BREWSTER

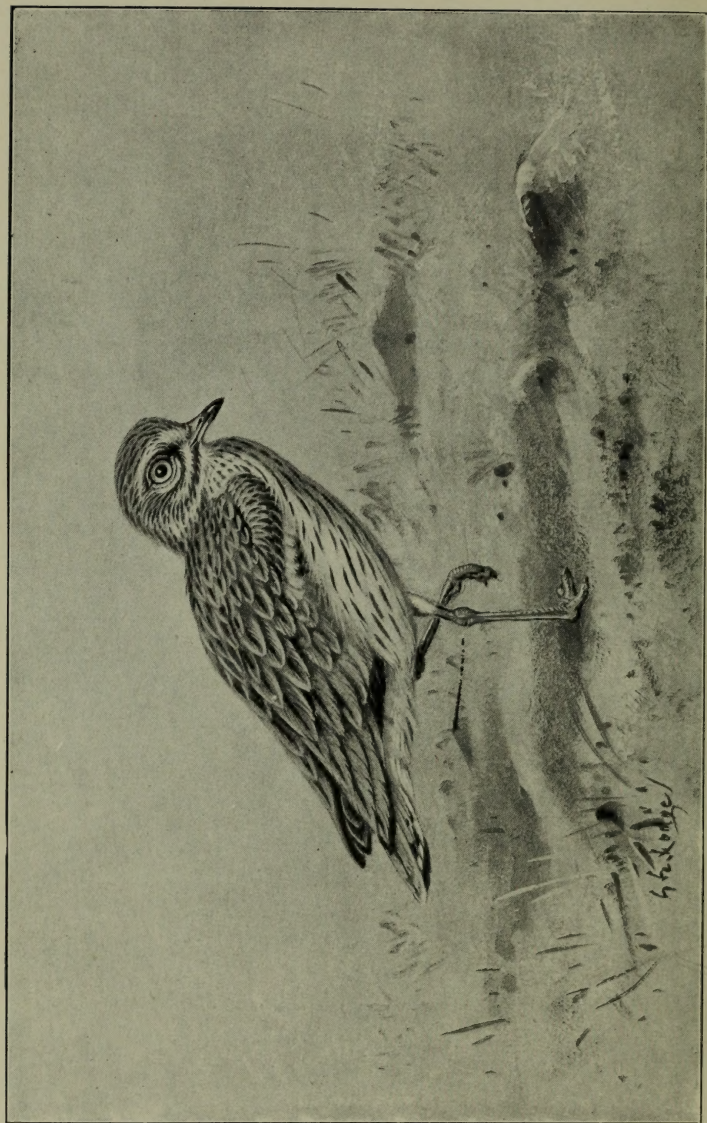
NOV 24 1919

William Brewster

May 3rd 1911.

(Ordered through Wesley & Son)
125

THE
BIRDS OF HAMPSHIRE
AND THE
ISLE OF WIGHT.



STONE CURLEW.

From a Drawing by Mr. G. E. Lodge.

THE
BIRDS OF HAMPSHIRE
AND THE
ISLE OF WIGHT.

BY

THE REV. J. E. KELSALL, M.A.,

Member of the British Ornithologists' Union,

AND

PHILIP W. MUNN,

Fellow of the Zoological Society; Member of the British Ornithologists' Union.

London:

WITHERBY & CO., 326, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.

1905.

S

LIBRARY
MUSEUM OF
CAMBRIDGE MASS.

LONDON :
PRINTED BY WITHERS & Co.,
326, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS 	vii.
LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS 	viii.
INTRODUCTION : 	xvii.
1. GEOGRAPHICAL 	xix.
2. BIBLIOGRAPHY 	xx.
3. CORRESPONDENTS 	xxvi.
4. COUNTY COLLECTIONS 	xxx.
5. NUMBER OF SPECIES 	xxxiii.
6. SELBORNE BIRDS 	xxxv.
7. BIRD PROTECTION 	xxxvii.
HISTORY OF THE BIRDS OF HAMPSHIRE AND THE ISLE OF WIGHT 	1-358
APPENDIX 	359
INDEX 	361

A Map is folded in at the end of the book.

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

	PAGE
STONE CURLEW (<i>Frontispiece</i>). <i>From a drawing by Mr. G. E. Lodge</i>	
SONG THRUSH. <i>From a photograph by Mr. Smith Whiting</i> ...	2
STONECHAT " " ...	12
REDBREAST " " ...	16
DARTFORD WARBLER " " ...	22
HAWFINCH " " ...	60
GIRL BUNTING. <i>From a drawing by Mr. G. E. Lodge</i> ...	72
DARTFORD WARBLER. <i>From a photograph by Mr. Smith Whiting</i>	118
NEST OF DARTFORD WARBLER " " ...	118
PEREGRINE FALCON. <i>From a drawing by Mr. G. E. Lodge</i> ...	172
BLACK-HEADED GULL. <i>From a photograph by Mr. Smith Whiting</i>	204
BLACK-HEADED GULL AND NEST " " ...	204
TUFTED DUCK. <i>From a drawing by Mr. G. E. Lodge</i> ...	232
LAPWING ON NEST. <i>From a photograph by Mr. Smith Whiting</i> ...	288
AVOCET " " ...	290
REDSHANK ON NEST " " ...	316
REDSHANK " " ...	316
COMMON TERN " " ...	324
BLACK-HEADED GULL " " ...	334

LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS.

Alder, Mrs.
Allcroft, A. R.
Allcroft, Mrs. J. D.
Aplin, O. V., F.L.S., M.B.O.U.
Archibald, Charles F., M.B.O.U.
Arnold, E. C.
Arrigoni degli Oddi, Count Ettore, M.B.O.U.
Ashby, Robert
Bahr, P. H., B.A., M.B.O.U., F.Z.S.
Bailward, Colonel A. C., M.B.O.U.
Balston, R. J., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.
Barber, F. V., LL.B.
Barclay, F. H., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.
Barclay, Colonel Hanbury, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.
Barclay, Colonel R.
Baring, The Hon. A. H.
Barker, Rev. A. Leigh
Barton, E. J.
Batchelor, F. A.
Beadon, Lt.-Col. R. H.
Beeston, Harry
Bellamy, Charles J.
Bonhote, J. L., M.A., F.L.S., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.
Boorman, Staines
Bouverie, The Hon. Kenelm P.
Boys-Smith, Rev. E. P.
Brown, John A. Harvie-, F.R.S.E., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

Browne, Mrs. Harold
Bryant, G. R. (2 copies).
Bullen, Miss L. M.
Bush, George L.
Buston, Rev. Charles
Butterfield, W. Ruskin, M.B.O.U.
Cade, Francis J., M.B.O.U.
Calthorpe, Lt.-Genl. Hon. Somerset Gough
Cancellor, B. D.
Carpenter, Rev. E. Stanley
Case, George H.
Castle, Spencer
Cave, Charles J. P.
Chambers, E. D.
Clarke, Captain Goland, D.S.O., M.B.O.U.
Clarke, Spencer
Clarke, William Eagle, F.L.S., M.B.O.U.
Cleary, David
Coles, R. E., M.B.O.U.
Collin, Bicknell J., M.A.
Collins, Col. A. C., C.B., M.V.O.
Compton, Rev. C. H.
Compton, Miss E. A.
Cooper, E. E.
Cooper, Sir G., Bart.
Corbin, G. B.
Corner, Rev. A. E.
Cornish, Lt.-Col. C.
Cotton, T. A., J.P., F.L.S., F.Z.S.
Coward, T. A.
Cowper, John, M.B. (2 copies)
Crewe, Hugo Harpur
Dalgety, Captain F. J.

- Dallas, Charles C., F.Z.S.
Darwin, W. E., J.P.
Dashwood, E. V.
David, C. S.
Davies, David R.
Davies, Commander Dayrell, R.N., F.Z.S., F.R.G.S.
Delmé-Radcliffe, Rev. H. E.
Dixon, Dr. J. R. L.
Dutton, Mrs.
Ellis, Miss Ida
Evans, C. I.
Faithfull, Miss
Falconer, Mrs. T. W. (2 copies)
Farquhar, Lt.-Col. H. R.
Fitzwygram, Lady
Fortune, Riley, F.Z.S.
Fowler, W. Warde, M.A., M.B.O.U.
Fraser, Rev. Prebendary
Fullerton, Mrs. David
Garnier, John Carpenter
Gilroy, Norman, M.B.O.U. (2 copies)
Gladstone, Hugh S., M.A., F.Z.S., etc.
Goble, Miss Iris Goodeve
Gordon, Seton P., F.Z.S.
Gore-Browne, Rev. Canon
Gore-Browne, Harold C., F.Z.S. (2 copies)
Gore-Browne, Rev. T., M.A.
Greenfield, Miss
Griffith, C., M.A., F.G.S.
Gubb, Seymour J., B.A.
Hamilton, James T., J.P.
Harman, Wm. Norton, B.A., M.D.
Harris, C. E., J.P. (2 copies)

Hart, Edward
Hay, John Y.
Heathcote, Rev. Evelyn D.
Heathcote, Miss Helena M.
Hewett, G. M. A. (2 copies)
Hony, Miss Caroline (2 copies)
Hopkins, F. G. (2 copies)
Hopkinson, Mrs. Mariana
Hopwood, O. T.
Hornby, Miss
Howe, the Hon. Lady Curzon-
Hoyle, Rev. C. E.
Hughes-Hughes, M. E.
Jacob, E.
Jeakes, Rev. J. M.
Jeans, Rev. G. E., F.S.A.
Jenkyns, Lady
Jenkyns, Rev. John
Johns, H. B. J., M.P.S.
Johnson, Henry G.
Jourdain, Rev. Francis C. R., M.A., M.B.O.U.
Kelsall, Rev. J. E., M.A., M.B.O.U. (4 copies)
Kelsall, Mrs. Thomas M.
Kelsall, Miss (2 copies)
Kelsall, Miss Lucretia
Kelso, J. E. H., M.B., M.B.O.U.
Keltie, J. Scott, LL.D.
Kent, Mrs. Mary Saville-
Kinch, Rev. Arthur, M.A.
Kinnear, Norman B., M.B.O.U.
Knight, T. R.
Langton, Herbert, M.B.O.U.
Lascelles, The Hon. Gerald, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

- Leeds, Miss Gabriel Frances
Lee-Warner, H.
Legge, Rev. Augustus G., M.A.
Leigh, J. Hamilton, F.Z.S., F.L.S. (2 copies)
Lemon, Frank E., M.A., LL.B.
Lethbridge, Ambrose Y., M.B.O.U.
Lodge, George E., F.L.S., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.
Long, C. E. P.
Longmore, Lady
Lucas, The Lord, M.B.O.U.
Lynes, Commander H., R.N., M.B.O.U.
Macpherson, A. Holte, M.A., B.C.L., M.B.O.U.
Madden, Mrs.
Madgwick, Mrs. M.
Mapleton, H. W., B.A., M.B.O.U.
Massey, Herbert, M.B.O.U., F.E.S.
Maturin, H.
Medlicott, Rev. W. E.
Merritt, Mrs. A. Lea
Metcalf, Charles C.
Middleton, W. S.
Mill, M. V. B.
Mills, Rev. H. Holroyd, M.A., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.
Mills, Miss I. M.
Mitchell, E. H.
Montagu, E. S., M.B.O.U.
Montagu, Sir Samuel, Bart., F.Z.S.
Montagu, The Lord, of Beaulieu
Moreton, The Hon. Richard
Morris, Stanley
Munn, Mrs. Philip
Munn, Winchester (2 copies)
Murray, Major (2 copies)

- Nelson, Thos. H., M.B.O.U.
Newton, Professor A., M.A., F.R.S., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.
Nicholson, W. G., M.P.
Noble, Heatley, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.
Noble, Rev. William, M.A.
Oakes, Rev. T. H. R., B.D., U.S.A.
Ogle, B. S., M.B.O.U.
Oldham, Charles
Ouvry, P. A.
Palmer, John
Paris, Alexander
Parker, Lady
Parkin, Thomas, M.A., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.
Patterson, Sir Robert Lloyd, J.P., D.L., F.L.S., M.B.O.U.
Peachey, Alfred
Pember, G. H.
Penrose, F. G., M.D., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.
Phelps, Thomas
Phillips, Alderman C. J.
Pink, Ernest W.
Pitman, J.
Pitts, J. T.
Poole, H. F.
Poole, J. Baddeley
Popham, H. L., M.A., M.B.O.U.
Portal, Spencer J.
Portal, Sir William Wyndham, Bart., M.A., J.P., D.L.,
F.S.A. (2 copies)
Portman, The Hon. Henry
Portsmouth Borough Public Library
Powys, Colonel H. S.
Proctor, Major F. W., M.B.O.U.
Rainey, Rev. J. Bryant, M.A.

- Rake, Herbert V., M.R.C.S.
Ramsay, Captain John
Rawnsley, W. F., J.P.
Raynbird, Hugh E., C.C.
Renaut, W. E., M.B.O.U.
Ricardo, Mrs.
Ricketts, G. H. M., C.B.
Rickford, Wyndham
Robinson, The Hon. Mrs.
Roots, Miss (2 copies)
Rothschild, The Hon. Walter, D.Sc., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., M.P.
Royds, Lieut. C. W. R., R.N., F.R.G.S. (2 copies)
Rycroft, The Rev. E. H.
Saunders, W. H. Radcliffe, C.E., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.
Saunders, Mrs. H. W. (2 copies)
Scarbrough, The Dowager Countess
Schalow, Herman, F.M.B.O.U.
Sclater, P. L., D.Sc., F.R.S.
Sclater, William L., M.A., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.
Scott, Rev. Canon S. G.
Service, Robert, M.B.O.U.
Sharman, Fred, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.
Shrubb, Mrs. John
Smalley, Frederick William
Smith, Augustus Henry, F.R.G.S., F.Z.S.
Smith, The Rev. H. B.
Smith, William H.
Snelling, Percy W.
Sparrow, Major R. (7th Dragoon Gds.), M.B.O.U.
Spranger, W. F. G.
Sprigg, Mrs. H. G.
Sprot, E. M.
Stable, Miss Rose E.

Stolterfoht, Miss Emily
Stonham, Major C., C.M.G., F.R.C.S., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.
Stratton, Frederic, F.L.S.
Sumner, The Rev. F. H., M.A.
Sutton, Lady
Sykes, Miss E. R.
Tarbat, Rev. J. E., M.A.
Terry, Major Horace, M.B.O.U.
Thresher, Rev. J. H.
Thresher, Commander W., R.N.
Ticehurst, N. F., M.A., M.B., F.R.C.S., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.
Tinne, Mrs. James C.
Townsend, Geoffrey
Townsend, R. G., M.A., M.B.O.U.
Trinder, H. W.
Valentin, James De
Vaughan, Canon John, M.A.
Verner, Colonel Willoughby, M.B.O.U.
Vincent, Charles Greaves
Wade, Cecil Lowry
Wade, E. W., M.B.O.U.
Wadham, Percy
Ward, Howard Charles (2 copies)
Ward, Mrs. Neville
Warren, William Thorn
Watmough, Mrs.
Watson, Col. H. J.
Weatherby, C. T.
Weatherby, Miss Edith
Weg, Max
Wheat, John B.
Wiglesworth, J., M.D., F.R.C.P., M.B.O.U.
Wilkinson, Mrs. David

Wilkinson, Johnson, M.B.O.U.
Williams, Miss Ethel
Wills, Sir Alfred
Wilson, Mrs. Belford
Wilson, The Rev. Sumner, M.A.
Winchester, Corporation of
Witherby, H. Forbes, R.B.A.
Witherby, Harry F., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., F.R.G.S.
Yorke, Rev. H. W.
Young, J. J. Baldwin, M.A., M.B.O.U.

BOOKSELLERS.

Bain, James
Batt, Robert C.
Bickers & Son
Bumpus, Henry
Dulau & Co.
Hatchard
James, T., & Co.
Porter, R. H.
Quaritch, Bernard
Simpkin, Marshall & Co.
Sotheran, A., & Co.
Waters, Charles T.
Wells, P. & G.
Wheldon, J., & Co.

INTRODUCTION.

THE man who takes up his pen to write a History of the Birds of Hampshire may well feel somewhat daunted by the task. Not only is the county large and diversified in character, and therefore very rich in bird-life, but it contains within its borders the historic village of Selborne, in which it might be said, with little exaggeration, that the study of British Ornithology first took its rise.

And from the days of Gilbert White onwards, the birds of Hampshire have been studied and loved by many notable people.

Jane Austen has peeped at our dabchicks, and Hawker has lain in ambush for our wild swans. Kingsley has petted our flycatchers, and Keble has thanked God for our nightingales. Tennyson has sketched the characters of many of our common birds in happy vignettes of song, and Charlotte Yonge has enlivened with their doings the quiet chronicles of an "Old Woman's Outlook."

We do not therefore propose only to deal with our birds as they exist at this moment, but to trace the history of at least the less common species in the writings of those who have gone before us, and to associate their names, when possible, with the men and women of mark who have appreciated their society.

We fear that some of our readers may be disappointed at not finding a description of the birds' habits, song, or

plumage, but these are matters which must be left, as a rule, to the works on general ornithology, such as Yarrell's *British Birds* (Gurney and Jackson, £4 4s.); Howard Saunders' *Manual of British Birds* (Gurney and Jackson, £1 1s.); and Johns' *British Birds in their Haunts* (S. P. C. K., 5s.).

Perhaps, also, it may have been expected that we should give the exact localities of the nesting-places of the rarer species, but it is only too necessary, in the interests of the birds themselves, that we should practise considerable reticence on this subject.

It is, as a rule, extremely difficult to get reliable information of the occurrence of rare birds from any except those who are really interested in ornithology, and have considerable knowledge of it; and the enthusiast is often distressed to find how many residents in the county are grievously ignorant of the rich and varied bird-life which surrounds them.

However, we may hope that the next generation will show an improvement in this matter, since greater attention is now given to Nature study in our schools, and the Society for the Protection of Birds (3, Hanover Square) is working hard in the same cause by means of lectures and competitions in essay-writing.

Mention should also be made of the excellent lectures, on kindness to animals, given year after year by Mrs. Suckling in all the villages round Romsey.

The fashion of providing birds with nesting-boxes is widely spread in the county. In the spring of 1897, Mr. Meade-Waldo had no less than seventy pairs of birds nesting in boxes in his garden at Boldre. The Society for the Protection of Birds will supply suitable nesting-boxes.

The nomenclature adopted is that of the "Ibis" List of

British Birds. Many local names have been added, and a suitable quotation, when available, from one of our Hampshire poets.

In collecting local names, we have made use of Swainson's "Folk-Lore of British Birds," besides the authorities already quoted.

A great number of migrants undoubtedly visit our coasts and pass rapidly on to their summer or winter quarters ; but on the whole the lights on our coasts are not good stations for observation ; the lighthouses at the Needles and at Hurst are apparently out of the direct course of migrants, and Mr. Charlton at St. Catherine's Lighthouse informs us that he thinks the new rapidly flashing light, which has lately been installed there, rather scares the birds away at night. Two light-vessels—the Warner and Nab—complete the number of lights on our coasts.

GEOGRAPHICAL.

Hampshire is one of the largest counties in England, and has an area of 1621 square miles.

We have, however, not attempted any elaborate division of the county into a number of districts, but have considered that four districts will best divide it up for the purposes of this work ; these are :—

The New Forest district, at the south-west corner, which includes all that portion of the county which lies to the west of Southampton Water.

The Isle of Wight.

The Northern Woodlands, which is roughly that part of the county watered by streams which do not flow into the Solent or English Channel, and is bounded on the

south by a line drawn through Odiham, Basingstoke, and Kingsclere.

The Central Hill district comprises the rest of the county, and, being large, might perhaps be sub-divided, but we do not think this necessary, as the general character of the whole district is homogeneous, and we agree with Dr. Sclater that the narrow strip of greensand, lying to the east of the Central Hill district, does not require separate consideration.

For further information about the general features of the county we would refer the reader to the Hants and Dorset Court Guide and County Blue Book, published by Deacon & Co. (1897).

BIBLIOGRAPHY.

The following authorities have been consulted, and copious extracts have been made from many of them :—

Birds of Dorsetshire, by J. C. Mansell-Pleydell.

Birds of the Isle of Wight, by More (in Venables' New Guide to the Isle of Wight. 1860).

Birds of the Selborne District (in the Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne, edited by Thomas Bell. Vol. II., pp. 363-366. 1877).

Birds of Tennyson, by Watkin Watkins.

Birds of Wiltshire, by the Rev. A. C. Smith. 1887.

Book of Duck Decoys, by Sir R. Payne-Gallwey.

British Birds, by Yarrell, 4th Edition. 1871-1885.

Catalogue of the Birds and Animals in Hart's Museum, Christchurch, by E. Hart. 1894.

Charm of Birds, by Charles Kingsley (in "Prose Idylls").

- Collection of Hampshire Birds, 1863-1900, in Winchester College Memorial Buildings. Warren 1900.
- Diary of Col. Peter Hawker. 1893.
- Disappearance of the Kite, by J. E. Harting (in "Field," December 11th, 1897).
- Gleanings in Natural History, 2nd series, by Edward Jesse.
- Guide to the New Forest. Rogers. (Chapter on Birds, by the Rev. J. E. Kelsall.)
- Hampshire Days, by W. H. Hudson. 1903.
- Hampshire, with the Isle of Wight. Dent's County Guides. (List of Birds, by G. B. Corbin.)
- Handbook of British Birds, by J. E. Harting.
- Hants and Dorset Court Guide and County Blue Book. Deacon. 1897. (Ornithology, by P. L. Sclater ; Birds of the Isle of Wight, by J. Cowper.)
- History of Alton, by Curtis. (Catalogue of Birds in the Town Museum.)
- History of Harting, by the Rev. H. D. Gordon.
- History of Lymington, by Garrow. (List of Birds.)
- History of the Isle of Wight, by the Rev. Richard Warner. 1795.
- History of the Isle of Wight, by Sir Richard Worsley. 1781.
- History of the Rarer British Birds, by T. C. Eyton. 1836.
- Ibis.
- Instructions to Young Sportsmen, by Peter Hawker. 1814.
- John Keble's Parishes, by C. M. Yonge. (List of Birds.)
- Last Hampshire Ravens, by W. H. Hudson (in "Animal Life," Vol. I., p. 14).

- Lecture on Birds of the Neighbourhood of Queen-wood, by J. H. Willmore.
- Letters of Rusticus, edited by Edward Newman. 1849.
- Lloyd's Natural History, by Dr. R. Bowdler Sharpe.
- List of the Rarer Birds obtained at Christchurch (in "Zoologist," 2nd series, Vol. IV., 1869).
- Manual of British Birds, by Howard Saunders. 1889-1899.
- Memoirs of an Ex-Minister, by the Earl of Malmesbury.
- Natural History of Selborne, by Gilbert White. (Harting's Edition, 1874; Bell's Edition, 1877; etc.)
- New Forest, by J. R. Wise. 1862.
- Notes on the Birds of the Isle of Wight, by the Rev. C. A. Bury (in "Zoologist," Vols. II. and III., 1844 and 1845).
- On the Distribution of Birds in Great Britain during the Nesting Season, by A. G. More (in "Ibis," 1865).
- Open-Air Boy, by the Rev. G. M. A. Hewett.
- Ornithological Notes from the Isle of Wight, by Capt. Hadfield (in "Zoologist," 1865-1889).
- Pinax rerum naturalium Britannicarum, by Christopher Merrett. 1667.
- Proceedings of the Hants Field Club, 1890 and 1898. (List of Birds, by the Rev. J. E. Kelsall.)
- Remarks on Forest Scenery, by W. Gilpin. 1834.
- Reminiscences of a Sportsman, by the Hon. Grantley Berkeley.
- South-Western Parts of Hampshire, by the Rev. Richard Warner. 1793.
- Topographical Account of the Hundred of Bosmere, by C. J. Longcroft. 1857. (List of Birds.)

Tour round Lymington, by the Rev. Richard Warner.
1789.

Victoria History of Hants, Vol. I. 1900. (List of
Birds, by E. G. B. Meade-Waldo.)

Wild England of To-day, by C. J. Cornish. 1895.

Wild Life in Hampshire Highlands, by G. A. B.
Dewar. 1899.

Gilbert White's *Natural History of Selborne* forms the backbone of our work. Though the book has appeared in many forms, it has never before been set out as a history of the birds of Selborne, arranged in scientific order.

And though it dates from a time (1788) when most naturalists were content to copy the fairy-tales of their predecessors, its observations may be proved correct by any Hampshire observer who has the patience to watch and study as Gilbert White did.

There are two other points also in which he might well be followed by his modern imitators—namely, the modesty with which he admits a doubt in facts not proven, and the simple and correct language in which he records his observations.

We have usually quoted from Mr. Harting's admirable edition, published in 1875.

White was born at Selborne on July 18th, 1720, and died there on June 26th, 1793.

His *Garden Calendar* is published in Dr. Bowdler Sharpe's edition. His *Journal of Observations* has never been published, but we have made several extracts from the MS. in the British Museum.

Jane Austen was born at Steventon Parsonage, near Micheldever, in 1775, and died in Winchester in 1817. She has a few references to birds.

The Hon. Grantley F. Berkeley lived for many years

at Highcliffe, near Christchurch, and made a large collection of birds; his most valuable specimens passed into Hart's collection, at Christchurch.

The Rev. C. A. Bury, of Bonchurch, wrote an account of the Birds of the Isle of Wight in the "*Zoologist*" of 1844 and 1845. This list was afterwards published, with some alterations, in the "*History, Topography, and Antiquities of the Isle of Wight*," by W. H. Davenport Adams (1858).

Lieut. Sutton A. Davies, of whose untimely death from drowning in India we hear as we go to press, was a scholar at Winchester College, and contributed many valuable notes on county ornithology to the "*Zoologist*." In conjunction with another Wykehamist, he published a List of the Micro-Lepidoptera and Birds of Winchester in 1891.

The late Capt. Henry Hadfield, of Ventnor, sent notes to the "*Zoologist*" on the Birds of the Isle of Wight for a period of many years. Some of those written in his extreme old age—(in 1886 he was eighty)—must be received with caution.

Col. Peter Hawker was a pioneer in the pursuit and observation of wild fowl and game; he was born in London on December 24th, 1786, and lived at Longparish House, on the Test, from 1802 until his death in 1853. From the year 1815 he possessed a house at Keyhaven, near Milford, where he spent a good deal of his time shooting wild fowl.

Besides his "*Diary*," his "*Instructions to Young Sportsmen*," contain much to interest sportsmen and naturalists. He was a gallant soldier, a keen gunner, and no mean musician.

The Rev. C. A. Johns wrote "*British Birds in their*

Haunts " before he came to live at Winchester. When at Helston School he did much to encourage Kingsley in his study of Natural History.

John Keble was vicar of Hursley from 1836 till his death in 1866; he also has not failed to write of our county birds.

Charles Kingsley lived at Eversley, first as curate and then as rector, from 1842 till his death in 1875. His "Charm of Birds" was first published in Frazer's Magazine in July, 1867; it is now included in the "Prose Idylls."

The List of Birds in Longcroft's "Hundred of Bosmere" was compiled from observations made in the neighbourhood of Havant, but appears to have been extracted from an earlier work by the Rev. W. Bingley, of which a few copies only were printed in 1817.

The late Mr. A. G. More contributed a valuable list of the Birds of the Isle of Wight to Venables' "History of the Island" (1860).

Alfred, Lord Tennyson lived at Farringford, near Freshwater, in the Isle of Wight, from 1853 until his death in 1892.

He was a keen observer of birds, and has portrayed many of their ways and motions. He used to visit the New Forest with Lord Lilford, in order to be introduced to some of the rarer species. The author of the "Birds of Tennyson" has collected and classified the poet's allusions in an interesting volume, admirably illustrated by Mr. G. E. Lodge.

The Rev. Richard Warner, of Lymington, wrote most complete accounts of the chief features of the county and the Isle of Wight, with numerous notes on their birds.

John R. Wise's "New Forest," first published in 1862,

has passed through several editions, and is still the most complete work on that district; the list of birds therein is fairly reliable.

Sir Richard Worsley was Governor of the Isle of Wight from 1780 to 1787; he wrote a history of the island, which contains copies of some quaint documents relating to some of the birds found there.

Charlotte M. Yonge was a great lover of birds; her "Old Woman's Outlook" contains frequent references to them; in "John Keble's Parishes" (1898), she gives a list of those observed at Hursley and Otterbourne. She lived at Otterbourne for the whole of her long life.

This book may be considered as a development of the "Briefly Annotated List of the Birds of Hampshire," published by the Rev. J. E. Kelsall in 1890, in the Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club, to which a supplement was added in the Proceedings of 1898. This remained the standard county list until the publication of the "Victoria History of Hants" in 1900. There seems to have been no serious error in the Field Club List, excepting the rash assumption that the Alresford where the Fieldfare nested was our Alresford.

CORRESPONDENTS.

We are much indebted to the following friends and correspondents, whose courteous and ready communication of valuable particulars added greatly to the completeness of our work and to the pleasure we received in compiling it.

The Hon. A. H. Baring, The Grange, Alresford.

Mrs. Barker-Mill, Mottisfont Abbey, Mottisfont.

Mr. E. J. Barton, Brading, Isle of Wight.

- Mr. J. Carpenter-Garnier, Rookesbury Park, Wickham.
Mr. Chalkley, The Close, Winchester (the original owner of the College collection).
Miss Ethel Chawner, F.E.S., Forest Bank, Lyndhurst.
Mr. J. F. Child, Upton, Farnborough.
Mr. W. Eagle Clarke, F.L.S., M.B.O.U., Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh,—through whose courtesy we are enabled to give several records of birds visiting our lighthouses on migration.
Mr. R. E. Coles, M.B.O.U., Ashley-Arnewood, New Milton.
Mr. G. B. Corbin, Ringwood,—has contributed to the "Zoologist" for many years, and has given us much valuable information.
Mr. J. A. Cotton, The Mount, Bishopstoke,—has most kindly contributed one of the illustrations by G. E. Lodge.
Dr. John Cowper, Shanklin,—wrote the list of Island birds in Deacon's Court Guide, and has kindly given us much further information.
Mr. Thomas Gulliver, Horsebridge Hill, near Newport, Isle of Wight.
Mr. J. Hall, Whitchurch, Hants.
Mr. E. Hart, F.Z.S., Christchurch,—the possessor of the most complete and most admirably arranged collection of birds in the county—has given us a great quantity of information; without his assistance, indeed, no history of Hampshire birds could be complete. The catalogue of his collection has been largely quoted.
Mr. J. E. Harting, F.L.S., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., Edgewood, Weybridge, Surrey,—has extended to us the same kind help which he has given to so many com-

pilars of county lists, particularly in matters of historical and antiquarian interest.

Mr. W. H. Hudson, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., 40, St. Luke's Road, London, W.,—has replied patiently to many queries. He knows our Hampshire birds well, and has written of them as only a poet-naturalist can write.

Mr. H. G. Johnson, Winchester.

Dr. Jolliffe, Yafford House, Shorwell, Isle of Wight.

Mr. J. Kemp-Welch, Sopley, Christchurch.

Mr. T. R. Knight, Wickham.

The Hon. Gerald Lascelles, M.B.O.U., King's House, Lyndhurst.

Mr. J. Hamilton Leigh, F.L.S., F.Z.S., Matcham, Ringwood.

Dr. Loveless, Steepleton, Stockbridge.

The Earl of Malmesbury, Heron Court, Christchurch, has kindly lent us a manuscript catalogue of his most interesting collection of birds, with permission to use any of the notes contained therein, of which we have availed ourselves largely.

Mr. Clement Mason, Holmfield, Stubbington, near Fareham.

Mr. E. G. B. Meade-Waldo, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., Stonewall Park, Edenbridge, Kent, contributed a valuable list of birds to the "Victoria History of Hants," Vol. I., 1900, from which we have quoted frequently, though his observations therein are chiefly confined to the New Forest district.

Sir George Meyrick, Bart., Hinton Admiral, Christchurch.

Mr. G. Miles-Bailey, Abbess Grange, Leckford.

Lord Montagu of Beaulieu and his son, the Hon. J.

Scott-Montagu, M.P., have interested themselves largely in the compilation of this volume, and have afforded us every opportunity of studying the avi-fauna of their most interesting Manor of Beaulieu.

The Earl of Normanton, Somerley, Ringwood.

Mr. A. Paris, Becton House, New Milton.

Mr. H. F. Poole, Shanklin, has given us a large amount of information about Isle of Wight birds, and has expended much time and trouble with this object, having compiled and furnished us with a very complete list of the birds of the eastern side of the island.

The Earl of Portsmouth, Hurstbourne Park, near Whitchurch.

Dr. H. V. Rake, Fordingbridge, allowed us access to the collection of eggs of his father, as well as to the manuscript catalogue of the same, which supplied much valuable information; we were thus enabled to see the original specimens mentioned in Wise's work on the New Forest.

Mr. H. E. Raynbird, Hackwood, Basingstoke.

Dr. P. L. Sclater, M.A., F.R.S., F.Z.S., Odiham Priory, Winchfield, without whose encouragement and assistance the work would never have been compiled. His list of birds in Deacon's Court Guide has been of considerable value to us, and we have quoted from it frequently.

Mr. J. Stares, M.B.O.U., Porchester.

Mr. G. Orby Sloper, West Woodhay House, Newbury.

Mr. F. Smith, Mill Hill, Cowes, Isle of Wight.

Mr. W. H. Smith, 71, Galveston Road, Putney, S.W.

Mr T. Thistlethwaite, Southwick Park, Fareham.

Mr. T. Tinker, Hordle House, Lymington, has assisted us greatly by lending several of the books from his collection of local authors.

Mr. A. Trevor-Battye, F.L.S., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., Chilbolton, Hants.

Major Turle, Newton Stacey, near Stockbridge.

Mr. P. Wadham, Newport, has supplied us with much useful information concerning Isle of Wight birds, and has enabled us to make several important discoveries in that quarter.

Mr. E. Westlake, Fordingbridge.

Mr. Smith Whiting, Carlton Road, Southampton, most kindly offered us a number of beautiful photographs of birds from life, as illustrations, many of which are reproduced and add much to the value and attractiveness of the work. His photograph of the Dartford Warbler is, we believe, the first ever produced from life of this rare local species.

Mr. Victor A. Willett, of Whitwell, Isle of Wight, furnished us with a lengthy list (with data) of the specimens in his collection of Isle of Wight birds.

Mr. Harry F. Witherby, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., Burley, Hants, very kindly overlooked the manuscript of this work before publication and made valuable suggestions and additions.

Mr. G. T. Woods, Fair Elms, Sandown.

COUNTY COLLECTIONS.

The collections of birds in the county are not very numerous, and few of them are complete or well cared for.

The collection of Mr. E. Hart, at Christchurch, how-

ever, is one of the finest and best-mounted local collections in England, comprising examples of most of the species which have occurred in the county.

The collection of the Earl of Malmesbury at Heron Court is large and interesting, many of the specimens being unique and historical ; it has also the advantage of containing only specimens which were procured in the neighbourhood of Heron Court.

The collection in the Winchester College Museum was made by Mr. Chalkley, and the specimens are very well set up and cared for ; they are mostly local.

Mr. Chalkley is at present engaged in restoring the birds which have survived from the old and very much neglected collection in the Guildhall at Winchester, and is re-housing them in the new Museum Building in the Close ; he is devoting much time and trouble to this, and is to be congratulated on the success of his efforts. Unfortunately no data have been preserved with the specimens.

The collection in the Alton Museum is interesting, and fairly well cared for, many of the specimens are valuable and have historical interest ; the few eggs there, however, are utterly neglected.

A collection of Birds in the Andover Free Library is composed of specimens which were collected by Dr. Hurst, a former resident in Andover, and were presented by him to the institution. They appear to have been collected from all parts, though few of them possess any data. Many are rare, but most of them are in a shamefully neglected condition ; the authorities, however, hope soon to improve them and to restore most of the specimens which are of any value.

The collection in the Hartley Institute at Southampton

is absolutely devoid of interest as a county collection ; it is in a deplorable state, specimens being wrongly labelled and apparently cared for by no one. There are some rare specimens, but we were unable to obtain any information concerning them from the authorities.

In Ryde, at the Museum of the School of Art, 37, George Street ;

At Newport, in the Museum in Quay Street, and

At Ventnor, in the Literary and Scientific Institute in the High Street, are small collections of birds, but they are valueless, being in bad condition, and most of the specimens without labels and uncared for.

It is a great pity that so many of the above collections are in such a neglected condition. As they are at present they are of no interest nor value to anyone, and were better destroyed. If they are to be preserved, would not some person interested in ornithology undertake the re-arrangement and care of them, studying as an example the Winchester Collection, now being set in order by Mr. Chalkley ?

There is, besides, a collection in the Museum of Haslar Hospital at Gosport.

The Earl of Selborne and the Earl of Normanton also have small but interesting collections at Blackmoor and Somerley respectively.

Of the Isle of Wight birds the most valuable collection was that possessed by Mr. V. A. Willett, of Strathwell, near Whitwell, in the Island, of which he furnished us with many interesting data, but the collection is now dispersed.

Of collections of eggs, that owned by Dr. Rake, of Fordingbridge, is exceptionally interesting, having been collected by his father ; many of the specimens are mentioned in Wise's " New Forest."

Mr. W. H. Turle possesses an admirable collection, and this, combined with P. W. Munn's, composes the most complete collection of eggs in the county. We have quoted data from many of the specimens.

NUMBER OF SPECIES.

We have collected particulars of 294 species which have occurred in the county (not including many which are of doubtful occurrence or have been introduced, such being placed within square brackets) — these may be divided among the following classes—

The Residents, 85,—which remain with us all the year round and breed.

The Summer Visitors, 42,—which visit us only in summer and remain to nest.

The Winter Visitors, 70—including spring and autumn visitors—which visit us only in winter, or on spring or autumn migration, and do not nest with us.

The Occasional Visitors, 36,—which visit us occasionally, with more or less frequency.

The Accidental Visitors, 61,—of so rare occurrence that we are obliged to attribute their appearance to accident.

Among introduced species may be reckoned—

The Wild Turkey, which flourishes on Lord Montagu's estate at Beaulieu ;

The Canada Goose, the Egyptian Goose, the Magellanic Goose, which are semi-domesticated and frequently stray from the ornamental waters where they were reared.

The Domestic Turtle Dove (*Turtur risorius*) is often

found at large and nesting, but must be considered as escaped from captivity.

Even the Rose-ringed Paroquet (*Palæornis torquatus*) occurs occasionally in an apparently wild state.

We consider that the Purple Gallinules (*Porphyrio*) also, which have been obtained in the county, are escaped birds.

The occurrence of two forms of Bluethroat is very doubtful, though Hadfield made such close observation and numerous notes on a supposed *Cyanecula wolfe* at Bonchurch, from 1865 to 1867.

Two forms of Great Grey Shrike have occurred, distinguished only by the number of white bars in the wings, and can hardly be called different species.

For comparison we subjoin the following Lists of Hampshire Birds :—

AUTHORITY.			DATE.	NO. OF SPECIES.	
Gilbert White (Selborne only) ...			1774	...	120
Bury (Isle of Wight) ...			1858	...	206
More (Isle of Wight) ...			1860	...	220
Wise (New Forest) ...			1862	...	230
Bell (Selborne) ...			1877	...	152
Kelsall (the whole county) ...			{ 1890 1898 }	...	290
Hart (Museum Catalogue) ...			1894	..	267
Meade-Waldo ...			1900	...	280
The present work ...			1905	...	294

In correcting the total of Hart's Catalogue, we have omitted the specimens obtained outside the county and three introduced species,

SELBORNE BIRDS.

The following is a List of Birds known to occur at Selborne in Gilbert White's time :—

Missel Thrush	Blue Titmouse	
Song Thrush	Nuthatch	
Redwing	Wren	
Fieldfare	"White Wagtail "	} Names incorrectly used.
Blackbird	"Grey Wagtail "	
Ring Ouzel	"Yellow Wagtail "	
Wheatear	"Titlark "	
Whinchat	Great Grey Shrike	
Stonechat	Red-backed Shrike	
Redstart	Woodchat	
Redbreast	Waxwing	
Nightingale	Spotted Flycatcher	
Whitethroat	Swallow	
Lesser Whitethroat (dis- covered in 1782)	Martin	
Blackcap	Sand Martin	
Goldcrest	Tree Creeper	
Chiffchaff	Goldfinch	
Willow Warbler	Greenfinch	
Wood Warbler	Hawfinch	
Sedge Warbler	House-Sparrow	
Grasshopper Warbler	Chaffinch	
Hedge Sparrow	Brambling	
Dipper (discovered in 1786)	Linnet	
Long-tailed Titmouse	Bullfinch	
Great Titmouse	Crossbill	
Coal Titmouse	Corn Bunting	
Marsh Titmouse	Yellow Bunting	
	Reed Bunting	

Snow Bunting	Mallard
Starling	Teal
Jay	Widgeon
Magpie	Pochard
Jackdaw	Goosander
Carrion Crow	Ring-Dove
Hooded Crow	Stock-Dove
Rook	Turtle-Dove
Raven	Pheasant
Sky-Lark	Partridge
Wood Lark	Quail
Swift	Black Grouse
Nightjar	Corn Crake
Green Woodpecker	Spotted Crake
Wryneck	Moorhen
Kingfisher	Coot
Hoopoe	Stone Curlew
Cuckoo	Golden Plover
Barn-Owl	Ringed Plover (Sea-Lark)
Tawny Owl	Lapwing
Marsh Harrier	Woodcock
Hen Harrier	Common Snipe
Buzzard	Jack Snipe
Sparrow-hawk	Common Sandpiper
Kite	Green Sandpiper
Honey Buzzard	Common Curlew (discovered in 1784)
Peregrine Falcon	Black-headed Gull
Kestrel	Herring Gull
Heron	Great Black-backed Gull
Bittern	Great Northern Diver
Wild Goose	Little Grebe
Wild Swan	

White says in his Letter XL. to Pennant (dated September 2nd, 1774), that Selborne has produced more than a hundred and twenty species. The above list gives us a hundred and eighteen, from which we must deduct the Lesser Whitethroat, the Dipper and the Curlew, discovered at a later date. But we may add the Ring-tail, which he considered as distinct from the Hen Harrier, and we thus reach a number only four short of a hundred and twenty. We may suppose that the two spotted Woodpeckers and the two Eared Owls made up his total.

PROTECTION.

Efforts have been made in the county, chiefly through the medium of the County Council, to protect the birds found within its area; in consequence of this and other contributing causes many species have increased considerably. We are disposed, on the whole, to agree with Mr. Meade-Waldo when he says that all small birds are increasing, except the Dartford Warbler.

We regret, however, to notice that the Common Heron is not protected, though its eggs are. It is one of our finest and largest wild birds, and the little harm it does to our fisheries might surely be condoned.

We add a copy of the Wild Birds Protection Act as applied to the county.

In the Isle of Wight a different Schedule is in force, and a copy is added; the Peregrine and Raven are specially protected there.

COUNTY OF SOUTHAMPTON.

WILD BIRDS' PROTECTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following Order was made on the 15th day of September, 1903, by the Right Honourable Aretas Akers Douglas, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, namely :—

Title.

I. This Order may be cited as "The Wild Birds' Protection (County of Southampton) Order, 1903."

BIRDS

Additions to the Schedule of the Act of 1880.

II. The Wild Birds' Protection Act, 1880, shall apply within the Administrative County of Southampton to the following species of Wild Birds in the same manner as if those species were included in the Schedule to the Act :—

Great Bustard	Marsh Harrier	Osprey
Little Bustard	Montagu's Harrier	Rose-coloured Pastor
Common Buzzard	Night Heron	Quail
Honey Buzzard	Hobby	Raven
Baillon's Crake	Kestrel	Lesser Redpole
Little Crake	Kite	Stork
Spotted Crake	House Martin	Swallow
Crossbill	Sand Martin	Swift
Eagle (all species)	Merlin	Bearded Tit
Peregrine Falcon	Nutcracker	Dartford Warbler
Hen Harrier	Nuthatch	

The Cormorant and Shag deprived of Protection.

III. The whole of the Administrative County of Southampton is hereby exempted from the operation of the Act of 1880 as to the under-mentioned birds :—

Cormorant

Shag

Certain Birds protected during the whole of the year.

IV. During the period between the 31st day of July in any year and the 1st day of March following, the killing or taking of the following species of Wild Birds is prohibited throughout the Administrative County of Southampton :—

Avocet	Black-necked Grebe	Oriole
Bittern (all species)	(Eared Grebe)	Osprey
Great Bustard	Red-necked Grebe	Owl (all species)
Little Bustard	Sclavonian Grebe	Raven
Common Buzzard	Gull (all species)	Lesser Redpole
Honey Buzzard	Marsh Harrier	Black Redstart
Chough	Montagu's Harrier	Great Grey Shrike
Crossbill	Hobby	Spoonbill
Stone Curlew	Hoopoe	Tern (all species)
Diver (all species)	Kingfisher	Bearded Tit
Eagle (all species)	Kite	Dartford Warbler
Peregrine Falcon	Merlin	Woodlark
Goldfinch	Nutcracker	Woodpecker (all
Great Crested Grebe	Nuthatch	species)

All Birds protected on Sundays and on Christmas Day in certain areas.

V. During the period between the 31st day of July in any year and the 1st day of March following, the killing or taking of Wild Birds on Sundays and on Christmas Day is prohibited in the following Petty Sessional Divisions of the County of Southampton :—Alton, Basingstoke, Fareham, Lymington and New Forest, Odiham, Petersfield, Ringwood, Romsey, Southampton, and Winchester.

EGGS.

Certain Eggs protected throughout the County.

VI. The taking or destroying of the Eggs of the following species of Wild Birds is prohibited throughout the Administrative County of Southampton :—

Bittern (all species)	Common Heron	Quail
Common Buzzard	Night Heron	Raven
Honey Buzzard	Hobby	Lesser Redpole
Crossbill	Hoopoe	Redshank
Common Curlew	Kestrel	Sand-Grouse
Stone Curlew	Kingfisher	Sheldrake
Wild Duck (all species)	Merlin	Tern (all species)
Goldfinch	Nightingale	Dartford Warbler
Great Crested Grebe	Nightjar	Woodpecker
Black-headed Gull	Nuthatch	And after April 30th—
Montagu's Harrier	Oriole	Lapwing
Marsh Harrier	Owl	Peewit, or Green Plover

Repeal of former Order.

VII. The Order of the 29th May, 1900, is hereby repealed.

NOTES.

Schedule of the Act of 1880.

The Schedule of the Wild Birds' Protection Act, 1880, includes the following Birds :—

American Quail	Kittiwake	Scout
Auk	Lapwing	Sea-lark
Avocet	Lark (added in 1881)	Sea-mew
Bee-eater	Loon	Sea-parrot
Bittern	Mallard	Sea-swallow
Bonxie	Marrot	Shearwater
Colin	Merganser	Sheldrake
Cornish Chough	Murre	Shoveller
Coulterneb	Night-hawk	Skua
Cuckoo	Night-jar	Smew
Curlew	Nightingale	Snipe
Diver	Oriole	Solan Goose
Dotterel	Owl	Spoonbill
Dunbird	Ox-bird	Stint
Dunlin	Oyster-catcher	Stone Curlew
Eider-duck	Peewit	Stone Hatch
Fern-owl	Petrel	Summer Snipe
Fulmar	Phalarope	Tarrock
Gannet	Plover	Teal
Goatsucker	Ploverspage	Tern
Godwit	Pochard	Thick-knee
Goldfinch	Puffin	Tystey
Grebe	Purre	Whaup
Greenshank	Razorbill	Whimbrel
Guillemot	Redshank	Widgeon
Gull (except Black-backed Gull)	Reeve or Ruff	Wild Duck
Hoopoe	Roller	Willock
Kingfisher	Sanderling	Woodcock
	Sandpiper	Woodpecker

PENALTIES.

The penalty for killing or taking any Wild Bird included in the Schedule of the Act of 1880 as extended by the above Order, between the first day of March and the first day of August in any year, is One Pound for every Bird in respect of which the offence has been committed, with forfeiture of any trap, net, snare, or decoy bird used.

The same penalty attaches to any breach of Parts IV. and V. of the above order.

The penalty for taking or destroying the Eggs of any Wild Bird named in Part VI. of the above Order is One Pound for every Egg so taken or destroyed.

When any person is convicted of an offence against the Wild Birds' Protection Acts, the Court may order any Bird or Egg in respect of which the offence has been committed to be forfeited.

H. BARBER,

Clerk of the County Council.

The Castle, Winchester,
October, 1903.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT.

Wild Bird (England).

THE WILD BIRDS PROTECTION

(County of the Isle of Wight)

ORDER of 1903, dated 19th December, 1903.

In pursuance of the powers conferred on me by the Wild Birds Protection Acts, 1880 to 1902, and upon application by the County Council of the Administrative County of the Isle of Wight, I hereby make the following Order :—

Title.

1. This Order may be cited as The Wild Birds Protection (County of the Isle of Wight) Order, 1903.

BIRDS.

Close Time Extended.

2. The time during which the killing or taking of Wild Birds is prohibited by the Act of 1880 shall be extended, so far as concerns the Administrative County of the Isle of Wight, so as to be between the last day of February and the first day of September in any year.

Additions to the Schedule of the Act of 1880.

3. The Wild Birds Protection Act, 1880, shall apply within the Administrative County of the Isle of Wight, to the following species of Wild Birds in the same manner as if those species were included in the Schedule to the Act :—

Cirl Bunting	Sand Martin	Blackcap Warbler
Common Bunting	Raven	Garden Warbler
Reed Bunting	Red-backed Shrike	Grasshopper Warbler
Chiff Chaff	Swallow	Sedge Warbler
Peregrine Falcon	Swift	Wood Warbler
Spotted Flycatcher	Missel Thrush	Wheatear
Heron	Pied Wagtail	Whinchat
Kestrel	Water Wagtail	Golden-crested Wren
House Martin	Yellow Wagtail	Wryneck

The Cormorant deprived of Protection.

4. The Wild Birds Protection Act, 1880, shall not apply within the Administrative County of the Isle of Wight to the Cormorant.

Certain Birds protected during the whole of the year.

5. During that period of the year to which the protection afforded by The Wild Birds Protection Act, 1880, as extended by Clause II. of this Order does not apply, it shall be unlawful throughout the Administrative County of the Isle of Wight to kill or take any of the Wild

Birds mentioned in the Schedule of that Act, or added thereto by The Wild Birds Protection Act, 1881, or by Clause III. of this Order, except only the Eider Duck, Gannet, Lapwing, Mallard, Peewit, Plover, Snipe, Solan Goose, Summer Snipe, Teal, Widgeon, Wild Duck and Woodcock.

All Birds protected on Sundays in certain areas.

6. During the period between the thirty-first day of August in any year to the first day of March following, the taking or killing of Wild Birds on Sundays is prohibited in that part of the Administrative County of the Isle of Wight which lies within the district of the Rural District Council, and outside the several Urban Districts in the said Isle.

EGGS.

Certain Eggs protected throughout the County.

7. The taking or destroying of the Eggs of the following species of Wild Birds is prohibited within the Administrative County of the Isle of Wight :—

Peregrine Falcon	Kingfisher	Owl
Kestrel	Nightjar	Raven

All Eggs protected within certain areas.

8. The taking or destroying of the Eggs of any species of Wild Birds is prohibited within the following areas for a period of five years from the date of this Order :—

The Red Cliff and Culver Cliffs, between the west side of the Red Cliff Fort on the west and the point of the Culvers forming the western boundary of Whitecliff Bay on the east, from the sea level to the Government boundary ; the whole of the Cliffs in the Parishes of Freshwater and Totland from the westernmost point of Cave Bay, thence round the coast to Sconce Point, and a hundred yards inland from the top of such Cliffs.

Repeal of former Order.

9. The Order of the 7th August, 1900, is hereby repealed.

GIVEN under my hand at Whitehall, this 19th day of December, 1903.

(Signed) A. AKERS-DOUGLAS,
One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.

CAUTION.

The penalty for killing or taking any Wild Bird included in the Schedule to the Act of 1880, and in the above Order, is £1.

Any person who shall take or destroy, or incite any other person to take or destroy—

- (a) The Eggs of any Wild Bird within any area above specified ; or
- (b) The Eggs of any of the species of Wild Bird named in the above Order ;

will be liable on conviction to forfeit and pay for every Egg so taken or destroyed a sum not exceeding ONE POUND.

Where any person is convicted of an offence against The Wild Birds Protection Act, 1896, or the Principal Act or any Order made thereunder, the Court may, in addition to any penalty that may be imposed, order any trap, net, snare, or decoy bird used by such person for taking any Wild Bird to be forfeited.

Under the Act of 1904 any person who sets any trap calculated to cause bodily injury to any Wild Bird coming in contact therewith, or knowingly permits any such trap to be so set, is liable to a penalty of £2, and for a second or subsequent offence, to a penalty of £5.

NOTE.—The Birds named in the Schedule to the Act of 1880 are :—

American Quail	Lapwing	Scout
Auk	Lark (added by Act	Sea-lark
Avocet	of 1881)	Sea-mew
Bee-eater	Loon	Sea-parrot
Bittern	Mallard	Sea-swallow
Bonxie	Marrot	Shearwater
Colin	Merganser	Sheldrake
Cornish Chough	Muire	Shoveller
Coultarneb	Night Hawk	Skua
Cuckoo	Nightjar	Smew
Curlew	Nightingale	Snipe
Diver	Oriole	Solan Goose
Dotterel	Owl	Spoonbill
Dunbird	Oxbird	Stint
Dunlin	Oyster-catcher	Stone Curlew
Eider-duck	Peewit	Stone Hatch
Fern-owl	Petrel	Summer Snipe
Fulmar	Phalarope	Tarrock
Gannet	Plover	Teal
Goatsucker	Ploverspage	Tern
Godwit	Pochard	Thick-knee
Goldfinch	Puffin	Tystey
Grebe	Purre	Whaup
Greenshank	Razorbill	Whimbrel
Guillemot	Redshank	Widgeon
Gull (except Black-	Reeve or Ruff	Wild Duck
backed Gull)	Roller	Willock
Hoopoe	Sanderling	Woodcock
Kingfisher	Sandpiper	Woodpecker
Kittiwake		

By Order of the Executive Committee of the Isle of Wight County Council.

JOHN DUFTON,

Clerk to the County Council.

County Council Offices,
20, Holyrood Street, Newport, Isle of Wight,
3rd February, 1905.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds has several branches in the county, and has arranged lectures in quite forty of our Hampshire towns and villages. It has also established Bird and Tree Day in our midst. As an instance of the result of these and similar efforts to teach a more humane attitude towards the birds, we sometimes find the nests in our lanes clearly marked by the trampled state of the herbage, because the children go and look at the young birds every day on their way to and from school.

The skilful pencil of Mr. G. E. Lodge will be recognised in several of our illustrations.

Others have been generously given by Mr. Smith-Whiting, of Carlton Road, Southampton, to whom we are greatly indebted for his generosity.

J. E. KELSALL,

The Rectory, New Milton, Hants.

P. W. MUNN,

Laverstoke, near Whitchurch, Hants.

1905.

THE
BIRDS OF HAMPSHIRE
AND THE
ISLE OF WIGHT.

ORDER—PASSERES.

FAMILY—*Turdidæ*. SUB-FAMILY—*Turdinæ*

GENUS—*Turdus*.

1. *Turdus viscivorus*. **Missel-Thrush.**

BULL THRUSH. STORM COCK. HOLM SCREECH.

WEATHER. SQUAWKING THRUSH (ISLE OF WIGHT).

WIND THRUSH (DEWAR).

A common resident throughout the county and Isle of Wight.

After a mild winter, in the more open country of the Central Hill district, this species is as numerous as the song thrush, and numbers of nests are to be found in the thin copses—generally in oak and ash trees.

“In general he is very successful in the defence of his family”—writes Gilbert White¹—“but once I observed in my garden that several magpies came determined to storm the nest; the dams defended their mansion with great vigour, and fought resolutely *pro aris et focis*; but numbers

¹ Letter xxii. to Barrington. Selborne. September 13th, 1774.

at last prevailed; they tore the nest to pieces, and swallowed the young alive." Bell—referring to the passage where White says "it builds in my garden close to a walk where people are passing all day long"—said that they still nested every year in the same spot. Bell occupied White's house.

Munn relates that once when climbing up to a nest which had young, one of the old birds flew against him, hitting him a considerable blow in the back, evidently with the object of diverting his attention from the young.

Miss Yonge¹ has a story told by Warden Barter, of Winchester, that "a pair of missel-thrush, seeing a peacock too near their nest, charged full at him, and actually knocked him down."

She makes the odd mistake of giving "House Screech" as a local name for this bird, which she has evolved from "Holm Screech" by an obvious transformation: the name "Holm Screech" extends from Cornwall to Sussex. The name "Weather" is given as a Hampshire name by the Rev. T. Woodhouse, formerly Vicar of Ropley, in Bull's "Birds of Herefordshire."

2. *Turdus musicus*. Song-Thrush.

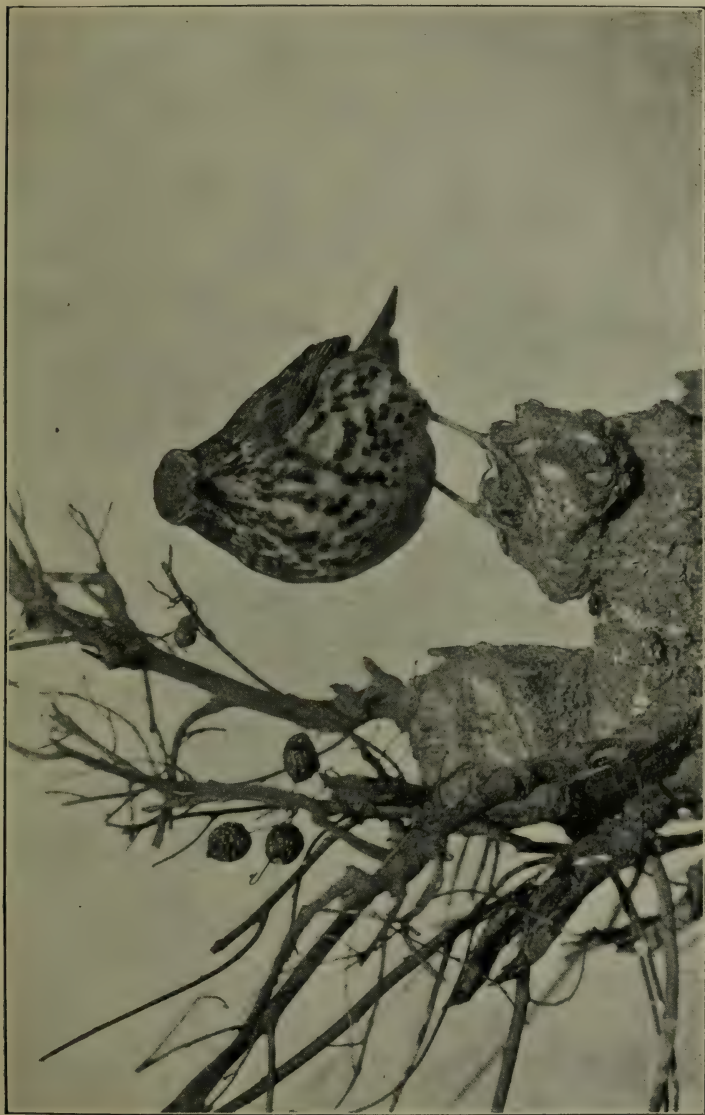
THROSTLE. MAVIS.

"When rosy plumelets tuft the larch
And rarely pipes the mounted thrush."

Tennyson's "In Memoriam."

A very common resident throughout the county and Isle of Wight.

¹ "John Keble's Parishes." Charlotte M. Yonge. 1898.



SONG-THRUSH.

From a Photograph by Mr. Smith Whiting.

Of late years thrushes have increased enormously, probably as the result of a succession of mild winters; their nests are to be found in every conceivable situation, and frequently on the ground, and so early in the year that they are scarcely concealed in the bare bushes and hedgerows.

Gilbert White remarked¹ that, next to the redwings and fieldfares during a severe frost, the thrushes are the first to fail and die; and² that the root of the Cuckoo-pint (*Arum*) was frequently scratched out of the dry banks of hedges and eaten in severe weather, and he found it was the thrush kind that searched it out, the root of the *Arum* being remarkably warm and pungent.

3. *Turdus iliacus*. Redwing.

A winter visitor throughout the county and the Isle of Wight.

They usually depart in April, sometimes lingering, however, until May; but Gilbert White remarks that in 1740 they remained until the beginning of June, after an unusually severe winter.

Neither so common nor so gregarious as the fieldfare.

4. *Turdus pilaris*. Fieldfare.

BLACKTAIL (NEW FOREST).

A common winter visitor to all parts of the county and the Isle of Wight.

¹ Letter v. to Barrington. Selborne. April 12th, 1770.

² Letter xv, to Pennant, Selborne. March 30th, 1768.

There is no authentic instance of either the redwing or fieldfare having nested within our limits, though both species occasionally remain until late in the spring or even until early summer. The record of a nest in Kelsall's list is a mistake, the Alresford there mentioned being in Essex. Gilbert White wrote¹ that he had "discovered an anecdote with respect to the fieldfare, which I think is particular enough: this bird, though it sits on trees in the daytime, and procures the greater part of its food from white-thorn hedges; yea, moreover, builds on very high trees; yet always appears with us to roost on the ground. They are seen to come in flocks just before it is dark, and to settle and nestle among the heath in our forest. And besides, the larkers, in dragging their nets by night, frequently catch them in the wheat-stubbles; while the bat-fowlers, who take many redwings in the hedges, never entangle any of this species."

Hawker's "Diary" for February 2nd, 1831, records: "A tremendous hurricane, with an overwhelming fall of snow, and with the wind south-west. An extraordinary influx of fieldfares, not less than 20,000, dispersed round Keyhaven and Westover, and so tame that you might have kept firing from morning till night, though I found it impossible to get more than five at a shot. After killing as many as I wanted, without even moving from the hedge I took shelter under, I weathered the storm. . . . It was quite laughable when the storm ceased this afternoon to see and hear the levy *en masse* of tag-rag popgunners blazing away at the fieldfares. The whole country for miles round was in one incessant state of siege.

"Next day, when the snow had changed to rain, all this

¹ Letter xxvii. to Pennant. Selborne. February 22nd, 1770.

enormous army of fieldfares had completely left the country. It was somewhat singular that, although these fieldfares were tamer than sparrows, yet they were as fat as butter, and I never ate any more delicious birds in my life. . . . This is an occurrence that may happen once in a century." In this calculation the Colonel seems to have been right.

Mr. Meade-Waldo remarks in the "Victoria History" that "in very mild winters scarcely any come to the south of the county, a few only passing northwards in the spring."

5. *Turdus varius*. **White's Thrush.**

A rare accidental visitor.

The first recorded British specimen, and the only one ever procured in the county, was shot near Heron Court, near Christchurch, on January 24th, 1828, by the Earl of Malmesbury.

It was believed by Eyton to be a new species, and was named by him after Gilbert White; its capture is thus described: "It attracted his (Lord Malmesbury's) attention, in disturbing it in passing through a plantation, where it appeared to have established its haunt in a high furze brake, as it returned to it repeatedly before he could succeed in shooting it. Its flight was undulating, similar to that of a mistletoe thrush, of which, when he first saw it on wing, he thought it a variety. It is a female, was solitary, and, notwithstanding the season of the year, was plump and heavy." ¹

The figures in Eyton's "Rarer British Birds," in Yarrell's

¹ "A History of the Rarer British Birds," by T. C. Eyton. 1836.

“British Birds,” and in Saunders’ “Manual of British Birds,” are taken from the Earl of Malmesbury’s specimen.

The other specimen mentioned by Wise¹ was not considered genuine by Professor Newton:—“It will be observed that no notice has here been taken of a thrush mentioned in former editions of this work as being the property of Mr. Bigge, then of Hampton Court, but now of Debden Hall, Essex; who, about the year 1825, bought it of a bird-stuffer at Southampton. This specimen is said to have been shot in the New Forest by one of the keepers. It was unfortunately sold in 1849 with the rest of Mr. Bigge’s collection, and that gentleman, though he has most obligingly made every enquiry, has failed to trace it. It is evident it was not a White’s Thrush, for, as described in former editions of this work, it had the second primary as long as the sixth, a character which equally precludes it, in the editor’s belief, from having been an example of Horsfield’s Thrush; while he has been very kindly informed by its former possessor that, though he had no reason to doubt the bird-stuffer’s story, the specimen, when shown to Mr. Gould, who still remembers the fact, was found by him to have its head stuffed with wool, as was often the case with bird-skins prepared in Australia. On the whole, therefore, it seems not improbable that though no fraud may have been intended, the specimen had been brought from that country, and is most prudently to be omitted from further consideration.”²

It is found in north-east Siberia, China, and Japan.

¹ “New Forest.” 1862.

² Yarrell’s “British Birds.” Fourth Edition. 1871.

[*Turdus sibiricus*. Siberian Thrush.]

A very rare accidental visitor.

Mr. Howard Saunders, in his Manual, says: "I fully believe that one was picked up exhausted at Bonchurch, in the Isle of Wight, in the winter of 1874, but the evidence is not sufficient to warrant the introduction of this species into the British list."

It is a native of Eastern Asia, but has occurred in France and Belgium.]

6. *Turdus merula*. Blackbird.

"Oh, blackbird, sing me something well;
While all the neighbours shoot thee round,
I keep smooth plats of fruitful ground
Where thou may'st warble, eat, and dwell."

"*The Blackbird*."—Tennyson.

A very common resident in all parts of the county and Isle of Wight.

The increase in the numbers of this species of late years is nearly as noticeable as that of the song thrush; for they also seem to be so numerous as to be unable to find sufficient normal nesting-places, frequently choosing the ground, ledges in sheds, and other unusual situations for their nests.

Charles Kingsley thus describes the song in his "Charm of Birds": "From the hollies rings out the blackbird's tenor, rollicking, audacious, humorous, all but articulate."

Dr. Cowper has observed a remarkable number of pied specimens on the east side of the island, but not a single albino.

7. *Turdus torquatus*. Ring-Ouzel.

A regular spring and autumn visitor to the greater part of the county and Isle of Wight.

Gilbert White notes ¹: "Some birds, haunting with the missel-thrushes, and feeding on the berries of the yew-tree, which answered to the description of the *Merula torquata*, or ring ouzel, were lately seen in this neighbourhood. I employed some people to procure me a specimen, but without success."

Later,² he writes: "It is remarkable that they make but a few days' stay on their spring visit, but rest near a fortnight at Michaelmas. These birds, from the observations of three springs and two autumns, are most punctual in their return, and exhibit a new migration unnoticed by the writers who supposed they never were to be seen in any of the southern counties."

At Christmas, 1770, they were seen in the forest of Bere, on the southern verge of this county.³

In the Earl of Malmesbury's collection at Heron Court is a specimen shot by the second Earl, in Portfield, near Christchurch, in 1818.

Mr. T. Mansell, of Farnham, writes⁴: "At Aldershot, a village near here, the ring-ouzel appeared in some abundance on the 8th September last (1843), and remained about the neighbourhood until the 19th, after which none were seen."

Bury says⁵ it visits the Isle of Wight both in spring

¹ Letter xii. to Pennant. November 4th, 1767.

² Letter xxiv. to Pennant. Selborne. May 29th, 1769.

³ Letter xxxviii. to Pennant. Selborne. March 15th, 1773.

⁴ "Zoologist." 1844.

⁵ "Notes on the Birds of the Isle of Wight." "Zoologist." 1844.

and autumn. In the spring the number is small, and its stay usually but short; but in the autumn of some years it is more abundant and remains longer.

More records¹ that a pair were observed during the breeding season near Bonchurch, in the Isle of Wight, in 1852; at Freshwater, an adult male was shot in July, 1857, and a female was seen with it, and in the summer of 1856 others were also observed.

In his "Distribution of Birds in Great Britain during the Nesting-season"² he says: "the nest has occasionally been found in the Isle of Wight." Dr. Cowper writes³: "it may occasionally be seen in spring. I have seen it on Shanklin Downs, but it is only on passage, and does not remain long with us."

Mr. Poole tells us it is a bird of double passage, visiting the district as a rule for a few days only in spring and autumn. One remained once for the greater part of the winter in some gardens in Shanklin, being seen daily and regarded as a variety of blackbird.

Wise says⁴ of the New Forest: "a few appear in the spring, but the greater body in the autumn, when they frequent the yews and mountain-ashes, being especially fond of the sweet berries of the former. They will hide and skulk, much as a blackbird does, in the furze and brambles and old thick hedges on the border of the forest. Mr. Rake sends me the following interesting note: 'An intelligent working-man, somewhat, too, of an ornithologist, told me that a few years since he took its nest with four or five eggs, near Ringwood, having a distinct view of the bird as she left the nest.'"

We think the nest reported from Queenwood in 1874,

¹ "Birds of the Isle of Wight." 1860.

² "Ibis." 1865.

³ "Hants Court Guide." 1897.

⁴ "New Forest." 1862.

by Mr. Willmore (*see* Kelsall's List) must have belonged to a pied blackbird.

A specimen has also been recorded from Whitchurch, in August, 1886, and another was shot in the same spot in the spring some three or four years ago, whilst singing vigorously (Munn).

From Highclere, Mr. O. V. Aplin informed Kelsall that he saw two adult males which had been shot near there in July and August, 1888.

In Mr. Hart's collection are specimens procured in January, 1880; December, 1881; and in April, 1882.

In the Alton Museum are two specimens from the district. The reason why this bird is so much less frequently seen in spring than in autumn, is no doubt because at the latter season it remains for some weeks to feed upon the berries, whereas in the spring it only halts for a day or two, to rest upon its long journey. It probably occasionally remains to nest, for although there is no quite convincing record of the nest having been found in the county, there are likely spots in the higher parts of the New Forest, as well as in some of the high downs in the northern part of the county, and in Wolmer Forest. But were the birds to be found nesting, there would be no mistaking the fact, even if the nest were not discovered, for the clamorous behaviour of the old birds when their nesting-place is approached could not escape notice.

[GENUS—*Monticola*.

Monticola saxatilis. Rock-Thrush.

The record of the occurrence of this bird in the Isle of Wight¹ must be considered quite insufficient.]

GENUS—*Saxicola*.

8. *Saxicola ænanthe*. **Wheatear.**

WHITE-RUMP. HORSE-MATCH. HORSE-MUSHER.

A summer visitor.

Plentiful in most parts of the Central Hill district of the county, and in the Isle of Wight; also found in suitable localities in the northern woodlands and in the New Forest.

It arrives about the second week in March and leaves again in the beginning of the autumn. The extension of this bird's range is noticeable; as the cultivated parts of the Central Hill district revert again to downland, through neglect of cultivation, so wheatears appear and increase abundantly.

Gilbert White says² that some "continue with us the winter through," but there are no later records of its having been noticed during this season. One of the earliest dates of arrival is noted by Dr. Cowper,³ who saw

¹ "Zoologist." 1867.

² Letter xxxix. to Pennant. Selborne. November 9th, 1773.

³ "Hants Court Guide," 1897.

one as early as February 19th, and has also observed it as late as the end of October in the Isle of Wight.

In Garrow's "History of Lymington" (1825) it is said that the flavour of the New Forest wheatears is inferior to that of Sussex birds.

Hawker took a gun to Alum Bay in August, 1833, "to get a few dozen of those delicious birds, the wheatears."¹

GENUS—*Pratincola*.

9. *Pratincola rubetra*. **Whinchat.**

A summer visitor.

Arriving in the middle of April, it is found in all parts of the county and Isle of Wight, but is nowhere plentiful. Though Gilbert White² supposed it to be a resident, he was probably mistaken in the species, as the female stonechat might be confounded with it, for the whinchat leaves our districts in early October.

10. *Pratincola rubicola*. **Stonechat.**

FURZE-HACKER. FURZE-CHAT. STONE-HACKER.
STONE-CHATTER.

A common resident.

Found in all parts of the county and Isle of Wight, but numerous only in those districts where furze abounds.

¹ "Diary of Colonel Peter Hawker." 1893.

² Letter xxxix. to Pennant. Selborne. November 9th, 1773.



STONECHAT.

From a Photograph by Mr. Smith Whiting.

GENUS—*Ruticilla*.11. *Ruticilla phœnicurus*. **Redstart.**

FIRETAIL.

A summer visitor.

It arrives in the middle of April and leaves in September. In the New Forest it is fairly plentiful, but is not very common in other parts of the county or in the Isle of Wight; in some localities it appears only on migration, and Kelsall has noticed the sudden appearance in late summer of numerous redstarts in gardens both in the New Forest and Isle of Wight.

Gilbert White ¹ speaks of its song as “superior, though somewhat like that of the whitethroat; some birds have a few more notes than others. Sitting very placidly on the top of a tall tree in a village, the cock sings from morning to night; he affects neighbourhoods, and avoids solitude, and loves to build in orchards, and about houses; with us he perches on the vane of a tall maypole.”

Mr. V. Willett has procured a specimen from St. Catherine's Lighthouse, in the Isle of Wight, on September 24th, 1892.

12. *Ruticilla titys*. **Black Redstart.**

An uncommon winter visitor.

In the Hart collection at Christchurch are specimens procured on November 4th, 1875; October 22nd, 1881;

¹ Letter xl. to Pennant. Selborne. September 2nd, 1774.

September 13th, 1881; March 29th, 1884; April 14th, 1884; and January 22nd, 1885.

It has also occurred at Portsmouth (Pearce); at Winchester¹ (Rev. C. A. Johns); and at Alton—two specimens being in the museum there, one, a very fine specimen, obtained at King's Pond on May 8th, 1865, the other, also from Alton, presented by Curtis. Another is recorded by Lathy in the "Zoologist" for May, 1891, as having been procured in Hants on November 16th, 1890.

Bury says a pair passed the winter of 1843-4 in the neighbourhood of Sandown, in the Isle of Wight, and were constantly seen from November to the end of February. He says a male was shot at Bonchurch, December 2nd, 1842, and a female at Luccombe, January 2nd, 1844²; several met with on October 20th, 1882, and one shot near Freshwater Bay³, are instances of its occurrence in the Isle of Wight. More considered it a regular winter visitor.

Dr. Cowper⁴ says he has seen it once in the early spring in the island.

GENUS—*Cyanecula*.

[*Cyanecula wolffi*. White-spotted Bluethroat.

A very rare accidental visitor.

Hadfield observed, but did not obtain, an example

¹ "Zoologist." 1863.

² "Notes on the Birds of the Isle of Wight." "Zoologist." 1844.

³ "Zoologist." January, 1883.

⁴ "Hants Court Guide." 1897.

with an unspotted blue breast, at Bonchurch, in the Isle of Wight, which remained in that neighbourhood for about two years from April, 1865. It was the subject of several notes in the "Zoologist" during 1865, 1866, and 1867 ("Ornithological Notes from the Isle of Wight"), and when first noticed was in immature plumage, but in November, 1865, had assumed adult plumage, "the breast being now of a pure and spotless blue." On January 12th, 1866, he also saw a bluethroat, an immature bird, in the same locality, and was inclined to believe that it was bred in the Undercliff.¹]

13. *Cyanecula suecica*. Red-spotted Bluethroat.

A rare accidental visitor.

It has been chiefly noticed in the Isle of Wight, for one was seen at Shanklin on September 17th, 1866 (Hadfield)²; one shot at Steephill, and another seen by Mr. Smith, of Newport, in June, 1888 (Hadfield)³; in September, 1903, an adult male was caught alive in an exhausted condition and with a broken wing at Yaverland, it was kept alive for several days, but, unfortunately, not preserved when it died. (Poole.)

Another was shot at Eastney, near the Barrack Gate, some years ago, by Corporal Strange, R.M.A., and was stuffed by Artlett, in whose possession Careless saw it. (Pearce.)

¹ "Zoologist," April, 1866. ² "Zoologist," 1867. ³ "Zoologist," 1889.

GENUS—*Erithacus*.**14. *Erithacus rubecula*. Redbreast.**

ROBIN. ROBIN REDBREAST.

" . . . he turn'd and look'd as keenly at her
As careful robins eye the delver's toil."

Tennyson's "Geraint and Enid."

" In the spring a fuller crimson comes upon the robin's breast."

"Locksley Hall."

" On the well nigh naked tree the robin piped
Disconsolate."

"Enoch Arden."

A common resident.

Found in every part of the county and Isle of Wight. Gilbert White says: "Redbreasts sing all through the spring, summer, and autumn. The reason that they are called autumn songsters is, because in the first two seasons their voices are drowned and lost in the general chorus; in the latter their song becomes distinguishable. Many songsters of the autumn seem to be the young cock redbreasts of that year."

GENUS—*Daulias*.**15. *Daulias luscini*. Nightingale.**

" Lay hidden as the music of the moon
Sleeps in the plain eggs of the nightingale."

Tennyson's "Aylmer's Field."

" the nightingale
Sang loud, as tho' he were the bird of day."

Tennyson's "Gardener's Daughter."

A common summer visitor.

¹ Letter xl. to Pennant. Selborne. September 2nd, 1774.



REDBREAST.

From a Photograph by Mr. Smith Whiting.

It is found in most parts of the county and Isle of Wight, and is very plentiful in many localities, particularly in the hedgerows and coppices of the Central Hill district. In the New Forest it is chiefly found in the manors and not in the old woods.

Mr. F. G. Aflalo, in his work on British Vertebrates, remarks upon the absence of nightingales in the immediate neighbourhood of Bournemouth, and thinks that their preference for Christchurch and Parkstone may be due to the presence of "retreating waters and muddy banks," which possibly furnish them with some favourite food; but he notes that Sir Herbert Maxwell and Mr. Harting do not admit this explanation.

Mr. Poole remarks that in the Isle of Wight it is not found on the Landslip, but is common among the stunted growth by the edge of the sea in Whitecliff Bay, and Dr. Cowper¹ says that a few years ago they used to frequent Shanklin Chine, but of late years have completely deserted it.

Miss Charlotte Yonge told Kelsall that Bishop Wilberforce described the song as follows: "My heart is broke, broke, broke; I'm awfully jolly, jolly, jolly."

Gilbert White² has remarked on the curious notes of this bird, which are not noticed by most people, who know only of its song: "Nightingales, when their young first come abroad, and are helpless, make a plaintive and a jarring noise, and also a snapping or cracking, pursuing people along the hedges as they walk; these last sounds seem intended for menace and defiance."

They arrive usually about the middle of April and depart in September, the young leaving some time before the old birds.

"Hants Court Guide." 1897.

² Letter xl. to Pennant. Selborne. September 2nd, 1774.

SUB-FAMILY—*Sylviinæ*.

GENUS—*Sylvia*.

16. *Sylvia cinerea*. Whitethroat.

PEGGY. NETTLECREEPER. MUFFY WHITETHROAT.
NETTLEMONGER.

A very common summer visitor.

They usually arrive in April and depart in September, but in 1902, hundreds were noted at the Needles Lighthouse at 2 a.m., on May 11th, and twelve were killed against the light; and on August 30th of the same year, others were seen flying round the light at 2 a.m., and two were caught.

Gilbert White writes of its song¹: "The note of the whitethroat, which is continually repeated, and often attended with odd gesticulations on the wing, is harsh and displeasing. These birds seem of a pugnacious disposition, for they sing with an erected crest and attitudes of rivalry and defiance; are shy and wild in breeding time, avoiding neighbourhoods, and haunting lonely lanes and commons."

Both Dean Herbert and Mr. Harting thought that this description must have been taken from the lesser white-throat, but we cannot agree with them.

¹ Letter xl. to Pennant. Selborne. September 2nd, 1774.

17. *Sylvia curruca*. Lesser Whitethroat.

A summer visitor.

Only sparingly distributed throughout the county and Isle of Wight, and in some localities scarce.

In the Isle of Wight, Dr. Cowper¹ says it is distinctly rare, and Mr. Poole also calls it uncommon about Shanklin. It arrives and departs about the same time as the white-throat; but Munn once noticed a specimen at Laverstoke, in 1884, as late as November 14th.

This was one of the latest birds discovered by Gilbert White, who writes²: "A rare, and I think a new, little bird frequents my garden, which I have great reason to think is the petty-chaps. This bird much resembles the white-throat, but has a more white or rather silvery breast and belly; is restless and active, like the willow-wrens, and hops from bough to bough, examining every part for food; it also runs up the stems of the crown-imperials, and, putting its head into the bells of those flowers, sips the liquor which stands in the nectarium of each petal. Sometimes it feeds on the ground, like the hedge-sparrow, by hopping about on the grass plots and mown walks."

The bird here described is evidently the lesser white-throat, and not the petty-chaps or garden warbler.

18. *Sylvia atricapilla*. Blackcap.

A common summer visitor to all parts of the county and the Isle of Wight.

¹ "Hants Court Guide." 1897. ² Letter lvii. to Barrington.

They arrive with great regularity about the middle of April, and usually depart in September, but one was seen at Porchester on December 31st, 1897, and January 4th, 1898, which remained there for a fortnight (Stares).¹ Mr. Meade-Waldo says a few occasionally remain almost throughout the winter.

There is an extraordinary variety in their eggs, and unless the bird is properly identified they may often be mistaken for those of the garden warbler. Reddish and salmon-coloured clutches of eggs are not unusual, neither are clutches containing an oddly-coloured egg. The nest of the blackcap, however, is usually constructed with a small quantity of moss among the other materials, which distinguishes it from that of the garden warbler, which never contains any.

The following description of the song of the blackcap by Gilbert White² was copied by Pennant in his "British Zoology": "The blackcap has, in common, a full, sweet, deep, loud, and wild pipe; yet that strain is of short continuance, and his motions are desultory; but when that bird sits calmly and engages in song in earnest he pours forth very sweet but inward melody, and expresses great variety of soft and gentle modulations, superior perhaps to those of any of our warblers, the nightingale excepted. . . . While they warble their throats are wonderfully distended." And again³ he remarks on its song: "The note has such a wild sweetness that it brings to my mind those lines in a song in 'As You Like It'—

'And tune his merry note
Unto the wild bird's throat.'

Shakespeare.

¹ "Zoologist." March, 1898.

² Letter xl. to Pennant. Selborne. September 2nd, 1774.

³ Letter iii. to Barrington. Selborne. Jan. 15th, 1770.

Kingsley writes : "Sweet he is and various, rich and strong, beyond all English warblers, save the nightingale : but his speciality is his force, his rush, his overflow, not so much of love as of happiness. The spirit carries him away. He riots up and down the gamut till he cannot stop himself ; his notes tumble over each other ; he chuckles, laughs, shrieks with delight, throws back his head, droops his tail, sets up his back, and sings with every fibre of his body : and yet he never forgets his good manners. He is never coarse, never harsh for a single note."¹

19. *Sylvia hortensis*. Garden Warbler.

A summer visitor to all parts of the county and Isle of Wight.

It is nowhere so plentiful as the blackcap, and in some localities is scarce ; arriving later than that bird, it also remains later in this country, departing about the end of September.

It often makes a great demonstration when its nest is discovered, and has been known to fly furiously at the intruder.

It was unknown by Gilbert White, and is not included in Bell's Catalogue of the birds of Selborne, and if White ever heard this bird, as he must surely have done, he doubtless supposed that he was listening to a blackcap.

¹ "Charm of Birds."

GENUS—*Melizophilus*.20. *Melizophilus undatus*. **Dartford Warbler.**

FRENCH BLACKBIRD.

A very local resident species.

It is perhaps most numerous in parts of the New Forest district, and in certain localities is fairly common; at one time it was particularly plentiful in the neighbourhood of Bournemouth.

Wise¹ says it "is sometimes very common in the forest, and is generally to be seen in company with the whinchat. In some years, as in 1861, it is scarce. I have its nest, with two eggs, in my collection, taken by Mr. Farren, on Lyndhurst Heath, April 29th, 1862; but it is always difficult to find, as the bird frequents, in the breeding season, the thickest part of the high furze."

Mr. Meade-Waldo² writes:—"It is probably the only small bird, with the exception of the goldfinch, that has decreased in numbers during the last half-century, the restricted area of the furze covert, in which it alone will live, and the greed of collectors, having contributed to this circumstance. There is, however, a certain migration of this species, for on one occasion, when partridge driving in November, seeing a number of small dark birds flitting up in a dense piece of rape in front of the drivers, I walked out after the drive was over, and found them to be Dartford warblers in some numbers; this was far from any common or furze of any extent."

¹ "New Forest." 1862.

² "Victoria History of Hants." 1900.



DARTFORD WARBLER. (NEW FOREST, 1905.)
From a Photograph by Mr. Smith Whiting.

Mr. Hart has specimens from the Forest, and Kelsall has noted it in Milton parish in June, 1904. Mr. J. H. Gurney has a specimen from Bournemouth in his collection.

In Wolmer Forest it has been met with by Colonel Irby; in the Alton Museum there is a specimen from this district dated 1847, and in the British Museum are two nests from the same neighbourhood.

Colonel Fielden wrote to the "Zoologist" in 1872, that it was abundant in the furze-covered commons included in the area of Wolmer Forest. At the end of April this year, when walking over the forest with Mr. Howard Saunders, we disturbed seven or eight of them within a radius of fifty yards. . . . I have noticed them distributed over . . . all the furze commons in the neighbourhood.

In Dr. Rake's collection of eggs is a nest taken in June, 1863, in the neighbourhood of Frensham, on the Surrey border.

Dr. Sclater has seen it some years ago in the gorse of the Holybourne Downs,¹ and Munn has observed it near Basingstoke. Miss Rose Kingsley mentions Hartford Bridge Flats, near Eversley, as another locality.²

A nest with five eggs was found at Stubbington, near Fareham, a few years ago. (Mason.)

In the Isle of Wight Bury says³ it has been seen on Shanklin Down and on St. Boniface Down; two were killed in March, 1844, by R. Loe in Bordwood Forest; Mr. Butler has obtained it at Yarmouth, and it has been found on Bridleston Common, near Newport.

¹ "Hants Court Guide." 1897.

² "English Illustrated Magazine." April, 1892.

³ "Notes on the Birds of the Isle of Wight." "Zoologist." 1844.

More also writes¹ that it has been by no means unfrequent in the furze on St. Boniface Down; and occurs also at Pan Common and about Newchurch, in the Rookley Moors, a "wilderness" near Godshill, and at Freshwater.

Dr. Cowper² says it nests in the island, but cannot be at all numerous. Mr. Witherby has found it breeding near the Needles.

GENUS—*Regulus*.

21. *Regulus cristatus*. **Goldcrest.**

GOLD-CRESTED WREN. THUMB-BIRD. TOM THUMB.

Resident in all parts of the county and Isle of Wight.

It is plentiful in those districts where spruce and other firs abound, and often abundant in other parts during migration.

For some years past a pair have visited, several times a day, in the spring, the windows of one of the rooms of my house at Laverstoke, perching on the flowers in the flower-boxes, clinging to the sides of the windowframes, or hovering in front of the glass; this visitation is continued for about a week, and they appear to be endeavouring to reach the neighbouring shrubs reflected in the glass. (Munn.)

Wise says that it is known throughout the forest as "The Thumb-bird."

Botanists tell us that there was a time when there

¹ "Birds of the Isle of Wight," 1860.

² "Hants Court Guide," 1897.

were no coniferous trees in Hampshire excepting the yew and juniper. If the goldcrest lived here in those days it must have been restricted to the former tree. Its nest is now frequently found in the yew, and more rarely among the ivy on the trunk of a tree.

22. *Regulus ignicapillus*. Firecrest.

A rare accidental visitor.

In Mr. Hart's collection are specimens procured near Christchurch, on October 24th, 1887; November 27th, 1884; and December 27th, 1884.

More relates, that from a number of *Reguli* knocked down promiscuously out of a large flock that visited Freshwater in December, 1857, Mr. Beazley, the Ryde bird-stuffer, selected for preservation an adult male of the firecrest.

The record in Bell's edition of White is probably an error, as the species is not included in Curtis' History of Alton.

It need hardly be said that the cock goldcrest is frequently called a firecrest, but no doubt the rarer species is much overlooked. (Munn.)

GENUS—*Phylloscopus*.

23. *Phylloscopus rufus*. Chiffchaff.

A common summer visitor to all parts.

One of the earliest spring migrants, often arriving in the middle of March; it leaves us in early autumn.

Gilbert White remarks¹: "Wonderful is the regularity observed by Nature! I have often remarked that the smallest willow wren, called here the chif-chaf, from its two loud sharp notes, is always the first spring bird of passage, and that it is heard usually on March 20th, when behold, as I was writing this very page, my servant looked in at the parlour door, and said that a neighbour had heard the chif-chaf this morning! These are incidents that must make the most indifferent look on the works of the Creator with wonder!"

It must not be forgotten that the name of chiffchaff, now universally applied to this bird by British ornithologists, was the old Hampshire name communicated by White to his correspondents, as the above extract sufficiently proves.

He also distinguished this "small uncrested willow-wren" by its note, describing it² as "a harsh loud chirp," and the bird itself as "the chirper."

24. *Phylloscopus trochilus*. **Willow-Warbler.**

WILLOW-WREN.

A common summer visitor to all parts.

It arrives in the beginning of April and remains until the middle of September.

It has been procured at the Needles Lighthouse on migration; at midnight, May 11th, 1902, ten were killed against the light.

¹ Letter v. to Marsham. Selborne. March 20th, 1792.

² Letter xvi. to Pennant. Selborne. April 18th, 1768.

This is the “middle yellow wren,” the “second willow or laughing wren,” and the “middle willow wren” of Gilbert White; the bird with “a joyous, easy laughing note”—“the songster.”¹

25. *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*. **Wood-Warbler.**

WOOD-WREN.

A summer visitor.

It arrives about the middle of April, later than either the chiffchaff or willow-wren, and departs in September.

It is not plentiful in any part of the county, but is most numerous in the New Forest, where in many of the plantations, and especially the oak plantations, it outnumbers both the willow-wren and the chiffchaff. In other parts it is most common in those districts where beech trees abound.

In the Isle of Wight, however, More speaks of it as frequenting chiefly fir-plantations.

This is the “large shivering willow-wren” of Gilbert White, which “haunts only the top of trees in high beechen woods, and makes a sibilous grasshopper-like noise now and then, at short intervals, shivering a little with its wings when it sings.”²

The three willow-wrens,—the chiffchaff, the true willow-wren, and the wood-wren,—must always have a peculiar interest for Hampshire naturalists, because Gilbert White was the first Englishman to distinguish them apart, and to point out how easily they may be recognised by

¹ Letter xvi. to Pennant. Selborne. April 18th, 1768.

² Letter xix. to Pennant. Selborne. August 17th, 1768.

their voices, although their outward appearance and their nesting habits are so much alike.

Before his time they were all lumped together as *Reguli non cristati*, uncrested wrens, and we owe him a debt of gratitude for enabling us year by year to welcome three delightful birds, which would so often be passed unnoticed, if it were not for the distinct character of their songs.

It has always been a delight to every Englishman to welcome such familiar friends as the swallow, the cuckoo, and the nightingale, but the pleasure may be increased twenty-fold—or indeed in Hampshire almost thirty-fold—by those who have the patience to learn the songs or the plumage of our less familiar summer migrants.

It is not the fault of White that many readers have been puzzled by the appearance of four willow-wrens instead of three in the Calendar printed at the end of his work. He did not himself prepare the Calendar for publication; it was compiled from his diaries after his death by Dr. Aikin, who had not quite mastered the great willow-wren problem. It is somewhat remarkable that none of White's numerous editors has corrected the Calendar, though Mr. Harting has pointed out the source of the confusion.

GENUS—*Acrocephalus*.

26. *Acrocephalus streperus*. Reed-Warbler.

REED-WREN.

A summer visitor.

It arrives rather late—about the end of April—and

departs in September; and though found in all the streams in the county, it is rather local in its distribution, as many parts of the streams are never visited by it; on the Upper Test it does not occur above Bransbury Common. In the Isle of Wight it is found in suitable situations.

Wise says it "is excessively scarce in the Forest, and I have only once or twice heard its note on the Beaulieu River. Mr. Hart assures me that it builds in the banks of the Avon, but its nest has yet to be found." And later he says: "Since these lists were arranged, Mr. Rake sends me word, concerning the reed-wren, that in the winter of 1858 a nest, evidently built the preceding summer, and exactly resembling that bird's, was found in a thick bed of reeds on the bank of the Avon, near Fordingbridge, but he has never seen the birds or eggs from the neighbourhood."

However, it is now plentiful enough on the Avon; and, curiously, this summer (1904) one of Mr. Rake's grandsons gave me a nest of this bird which was taken from a willow-tree in his garden by the river at Fordingbridge. (Munn.)

Turle, at Newton Stacey, once found a nest with a May-fly and cast, that he had lost some time before, woven in among the other materials of the nest.

Gilbert White does not appear to have known this bird, although Bell has marked it with the letter "W" in his catalogue of the birds of Selborne.

27. *Acrocephalus palustris*. **Marsh-Warbler.**

A rare summer visitor.

In Mr. Hart's collection there is a specimen procured

in May, 1869, and he has also a clutch of eggs taken near Christchurch. A nest with eggs was taken at Alresford Great Pond in June, 1863, by Mr. W. H. Smith.

We do not think that this species is really so scarce as it is supposed to be, but rather is overlooked; though the bird resembles the reed-warbler, its nest is placed in situations similar to the sedge-warbler's.

28. *Acrocephalus turdoides*. **Great Reed-Warbler.**

A very rare accidental visitor.

A male was shot at Ringwood on June 3rd, 1884, by Mr. G. F. Hart, and preserved for the late Mr. T. J. Mann, of Bishop's Stortford. It was found by the river side in a rank growth of sedge, reed, water hemlock and willow.¹

Another specimen in Mr. Hart's collection was shot on the mill-stream, Christchurch, on May 10th, 1900.

It is a common species on the Continent of Europe.

Wise has noted in his "New Forest" that Mr. Farren found a nest in June, 1858, between Brockenhurst and Lyndhurst, containing five eggs, which were supposed to be those of this bird.

29. *Acrocephalus aquaticus*. **Aquatic Warbler.**

A very rare accidental visitor.

One was procured at Christchurch in September, 1876 (Hart); and another in Farlington Marsh, near Havant, in September, 1897 (Rev. S. G. Scott).²

¹ "Zoologist." August, 1884.

² "Zoologist." October, 1897.

The story of Mr. Hart's specimen is as follows. He was returning from duck-shooting, and discharged his gun at a small bird, simply in order to get rid of the charge, with the result that he added a new species to the county.

The specimen procured at Farlington was killed accidentally by a fox terrier belonging to Mr. Richards of that place.

It is remarkable that both these specimens were killed by accident, both on the coast, though in opposite corners of the county, and both in the same month of the year. Owing to its resemblance to the sedge warbler it may, perhaps, be often overlooked.

It is found in temperate Europe and North Africa.

30. *Acrocephalus phragmitis*. Sedge-Warbler.

SEDGE-BIRD. CHAM-CHIDER. CHANNY. SPIRE-CHATTER.

A common summer visitor.

From the end of April to the end of September found throughout the county and Isle of Wight in all suitable situations, and often in places where its presence would not be suspected.

In his twenty-fourth letter to Pennant, White remarks that one of his neighbours lately brought him a new *Salicaria*, and proceeds to describe it with his usual accuracy. In the twenty-sixth letter he says: "I have taken a great deal of pains about your *Salicaria* and mine, with a white stroke over its eye and a tawny rump. I have surveyed it alive and dead, and am perfectly persuaded that it is no more nor less than the *Passer arundinaceus minor* of Ray."

He points out that the bird should not be classed, like the reed bunting, with the *Passeres* or finches, but with the slender-billed warblers.

"It is no uncommon bird," he says, "haunting the sides of ponds and rivers, where there is covert, and the reeds and sedges of moors. The country people in some places call it the sedge bird. (It is still known in the county by this name.) It sings incessantly night and day during the breeding time, imitating the note of a sparrow, a swallow, a skylark, and has a strange hurrying manner in its song."

He remarks gently that the bird is entirely omitted in the British Zoology, whereas he might have been a little sarcastic at the expense of a man who thought himself a great naturalist and lived in a county swarming with sedge warblers, without being aware of their existence.

At the Needles Lighthouse it has been recorded on migration accompanying the common whitethroat both in spring and autumn. On May 11th, 1902, at midnight, hundreds were flying round the light and fifteen were killed; and on August 30th, 1902, at 10 p.m., two were caught, and others were seen flying round the light.

GENUS—*Locustella*.

31. *Locustella naevia*. Grasshopper Warbler.

A summer visitor.

It is found in all parts of the county and Isle of Wight, though plentiful only in a few districts, and but sparingly distributed over the larger area. Its curious trilling song is first heard at the end of April, when it arrives, and it takes its departure in September.

This is the "Grasshopper Lark" of Gilbert White "which"—he writes¹—"began his sibilous note in my fields last Saturday. Nothing can be more amusing than the whisper of this little bird, which seems to be close by, though at a hundred yards' distance; and when close at your ear, is scarce louder than when a great way off. Had I not been a little acquainted with insects, and known that the grasshopper kind is not yet hatched, I should have hardly believed but that it had been a *Locusta* whispering in the bushes. The country people laugh when you tell them that it is the note of a bird. It is a most artful creature, skulking in the thickest part of a bush; and will sing at a yard's distance, provided it be concealed. I was obliged to get a person to go on the other side of the hedge where it haunted; and then it would run, creeping like a mouse, before us for a hundred yards together, through the bottom of the thorns; yet it would not come into fair sight; but in a morning early, and when undisturbed, it sings on the top of a twig, gaping and shivering with its wings."

White also notes² that it "chirps all night in the height of summer."

Kelsall once heard a very weird duet between this bird and the nightjar at Stoney Cross, in the New Forest, about eleven o'clock at night at mid-summer.

There is a Hampshire nest of this species in the British Museum.

Bury records³ an unusual situation for its nest, "one with four eggs was taken on June 12th, 1844, half way down the Culver Cliff, in the Isle of Wight, and was com-

¹ Letter xvi. to Pennant. Selborne. April 18th, 1768.

² Letter xl. to Pennant. Selborne. September 2nd, 1774.

³ "Notes on the Birds of the Isle of Wight." "Zoologist." 1844.

posed of sea-weed chiefly, with some lichens externally ; then grass bents ; and lined with finer bents and fibrous roots."

Dr. Cowper¹ says a nest was found on Pan Common a few years ago, and that it is not an uncommon bird during the autumn.

SUB-FAMILY—*Accentorinæ*.

GENUS—*Accentor*.

32. *Accentor modularis*. Hedge-sparrow.

A very common resident in all parts.

One of the few species whose numbers seem to be unaffected by migration.

33. *Accentor collaris*. Alpine Accentor.

A rare accidental visitor.

One was shot in the old Castle Gardens at Christchurch, by Mr. W. Humby in 1885, and is in the collection of Mr. E. Hart, of that place.

It is a native of the mountainous parts of Central and Southern Europe.

¹ "Hants Court Guide." 1897.

FAMILY—*Cinclidæ*.GENUS—*Cinclus*.34. *Cinclus aquaticus*. Dipper.

An accidental visitor.

In White's twentieth letter to Pennant, dated Oct. 3rd, 1768, he wrote that he was "persuaded from the accounts of two or three people that the *Sturnus cinclus* is sometimes seen in these parts, but more frequently round Lewes, in Sussex."

This paragraph was omitted from the published copies until Dr. Bowdler Sharpe restored it in his edition of 1900.

It was not until the year 1786 that White's supposition was proved correct. In his MS. journal, under April 20th of that year, he made the following entry :—

"Young George Tanner shot a water ouzel, *Merula aquatica*, near James Knight's ponds. This is the first bird of that sort that was ever observed in this parish. This bird, being only pinioned, was caught alive, and put into a cage, to which it soon became reconciled, and is fed with woodlice and small snails."

"May 12. The water ouzel is living and recovered of its wound."

A specimen was found at Emsworth, in January, 1808, and another at Hayling, in 1835. (Longcroft.)

There are three specimens in the Winchester College collection, from Avington, 1878, and Worthy, 1878.

A female was shot at St. Cross, on November 28th, 1892 (Davies),¹ and another was killed on Chilbolton Down, in September, 1893 (Davies).²

¹ "Zoologist." January, 1893.

² "Zoologist." August, 1894.

With regard to its nesting in the county, Colonel Aslett wrote to the "Field," July 4th, 1874: "A pair of dippers or water ouzels built a nest in a pond at this place during the early part of June. Unluckily some boys discovered it on the 21st, and destroyed it." We cannot trace the writer, nor the locality.

In spite of some casual remarks by a well-known sportsman, we do not think the dipper frequents the forest streams. Mr. Meade-Waldo's silence is strong evidence to the contrary, and the bird is conspicuous by its absence among the Hampshire specimens in the Hart collection.

It has not yet been recorded from the Isle of Wight.

FAMILY—*Panuridæ*.

GENUS—*Panurus*.

35. *Panurus biarmicus*. Bearded Titmouse.

An accidental visitor; probably a resident in former years. Wise says he once received its eggs taken among the reeds of the Boldre stream.

Mr. Hart says it was formerly found on the River Avon, and he has specimens in his collection procured in 1847 and 1854.

One was killed near Havant. (Longcroft.)

In the Isle of Wight, Bury records one killed near Ryde, which came into the possession of Mr. Wild some years ago. Kelsall has seen a specimen in the collection of Mr. Butler, of Yarmouth, and he has also recent records of this species as seen upon two of our rivers by three

different persons, one of his informants being quite positive as to the species, for he got within a few feet of the cock bird, which was perched on a willow.

The Rev. G. M. A. Hewett informs us that it was nesting on the Itchin, in 1902.

FAMILY—*Paridæ*.

GENUS—*Acredula*.

36. *Acredula rosea*. **British Long-tailed Titmouse.**

BOTTLE-TIT. LONG-TAILED CAFFIN, CAVIN,
OR CAPIN. LONG-TAILED CAPON OR CAPER.

PUDDING BIRD.

A common resident in all parts, but varying in numbers in different years.

The species of Titmouse which Gilbert White says¹ "spends its whole time in the woods and fields, never retreating for succour in the severest seasons to houses and neighbourhoods . . . the delicate long-tailed titmouse, which is almost as minute as the golden-crowned wren."

Wise says it is known throughout the forest as the "long-tailed caffin" or "cavin."

Hawker has this note in his "Diary" under the date January 1st, 1833: "Found in the garden (*i.e.*, at Keyhaven) the nest of a 'long-tailed Dick,' with three eggs."

¹ Letter xli. to Pennant.

GENUS—*Parus*.**37. *Parus major*. Great Titmouse.**

BLACK-CAP. TOM-TIT. OX-EYE.

A common resident in all parts of the county and Isle of Wight.

This, and the blue titmouse, are certainly the most abundant of the family in our districts.

Mr. Sutton Davies¹ once found it nesting at St. Cross, near Winchester, on December 12th, 1893, but the eggs were forsaken owing to the frost.

Munn has found a nest at Hurstbourne in 1888, which contained twelve pure white eggs.

Gilbert White called it² the "great-black-headed titmouse," which "driven by stress of weather, much frequents houses, and, in deep snows, I have seen this bird, while it hung with its beak downwards (to my no small delight and admiration), draw straws lengthwise from out the eaves of thatched houses, in order to pull out the flies that were concealed between them, and that in such numbers that they quite defaced the thatch, and gave it a ragged appearance."

Miss Yonge happily describes the note of this bird as "Peter, Peter."

38. *Parus britannicus*. British Coal Titmouse.

A resident in all parts.

The cole-mouse of Gilbert White.

The fact that this bird so much outnumbers the marsh

¹ "Zoologist." August, 1894. ² Letter xli. to Pennant.

tit in the New Forest is probably owing to the abundance of fir-trees in that district. Several observers believe that it has increased of late years, which would agree with the fact that the Scotch fir was re-introduced into Hampshire about a hundred years ago, and that an enormous number of foreign coniferous trees and shrubs have been planted in our gardens and shrubberies during the same period.

39. *Parus palustris*. Marsh Titmouse.

Resident in all parts.

This is certainly more common than the coal titmouse in the Central Hill district of the county, though it is not so in the New Forest.

Munn knew a nest once of this bird which was composed entirely of cotton wool, picked up from an adjacent dust heap.

Gilbert White was acquainted with it.¹

40. *Parus cæruleus*. Blue Titmouse.

A common resident, plentiful in all parts.

Another name given to the species by Gilbert White¹ is the "nun," which, he says, "is a great frequenter of houses, and a general devourer. Besides insects, it is very fond of flesh, for it frequently picks bones on dunghills; it is a vast admirer of suet, and haunts butchers' shops. When a boy, I have known twenty in a morning caught with snap mouse traps, baited with tallow or suet. It will

¹ Letter xli. to Pennant.

also pick holes in apples on the ground, and be well entertained with the seeds on the head of a sunflower."

This is the "tom-tit" that most often nests in letter boxes.

41. *Parus cristatus*. **Crested Titmouse.**

An accidental visitor.

One was shot near Stanpit Marsh, Christchurch, by Mr. Footner, in 1846, and is in Mr. Hart's collection.

Another was killed near Yarmouth, in the Isle of Wight, by Mr. Butler (Bury). Kelsall has seen this specimen in Mr. Butler's collection, and it is no doubt the bird mentioned by Laishley in his "British Birds' Eggs" ("Zoologist," 1890).

The record in the second edition of Howard Saunders' Manual is a mistake, the bird in question having been seen at Plymouth, not at Bournemouth.

FAMILY—*Sittidæ*.

GENUS—*Sitta*.

42. *Sitta cæsia*. **Nuthatch.**

MUD-DABBER. MUD-STOPPER. TREE-CLIMBER.

A resident.

It is found in all parts of the mainland, but is common only in the woodlands where suitable timber abounds.

In the Isle of Wight it is not known to have occurred.

Gilbert White describes how it opens hazel nuts to feed on the kernel¹—"picks an irregular ragged hole with its bill; but as this artist has no paws to hold the nut firm while he pierces it, like an adroit workman, he fixes it, as it were, in a vice, in some cleft of a tree, or in some crevice; when, standing over it, he perforates the stubborn shell. We have often placed nuts in the chink of a gate-post where nuthatches have been known to haunt, and have always found that those birds have readily penetrated them. While at work they make a rapping noise that they may be heard at a considerable distance."

When White says in the sixteenth letter to Pennant that it is this bird which "makes a clatter with his bill against a dead bough," he is doubtless confounding it with the lesser spotted woodpecker.

When it occupies a nesting-box, it plasters down the lid with clay.

FAMILY—*Troglodytidae*.

GENUS—*Troglodytes*.

43. *Troglodytes parvulus*. Wren.

JENNY WREN. SCUTTY.

A common resident in all parts.

In the month of November, 1904, one was busily building a nest at Laverstoke, and completed the outer shell before the inclement weather made it realize that it was too late in the year to complete the structure.

¹ Letter lvi. to Barrington.

FAMILY—*Motacillidæ*.GENUS—*Motacilla*.**44. *Motacilla alba*. White Wagtail.**

A scarce summer visitor.

We think that this species is probably not really so scarce as it is supposed to be, for it has been noticed in several places in the county, and is probably overlooked in most other parts.

In the Isle of Wight a pair of wagtails, with their nest, was obtained at Freshwater by Mr. H. Rogers, which Bond and Gould referred to this species, though the birds were not so pale as usual. (More.)¹

In the year 1900, Kelsall says, a male pied wagtail paired with a white wagtail, and brought up its young in his garden at Milton; he identified the female by the well-defined black cap, as seen against the grey back, in accordance with the description in Yarrell. He has often seen it during the autumn migration in the south of the county, and Munn has seen it at the same season in the north.

The "white" wagtails referred to by Gilbert White² are doubtless the pied species.

Colonel Irby has reported the white wagtail from Wolmer Forest.

¹ "The Distribution of Birds in Great Britain during the nesting season."
"Ibis," 1865.

² Letter xiii. to Pennant. Selborne. January 22nd, 1768.

45. *Motacilla lugubris*. Pied Wagtail.

DISH-WASHER. WATER-WAGTAIL. MOLLY.

A common resident in all parts.

The numbers of this, our commonest wagtail, are greatly augmented at the seasons of migration, but during the winter there is certainly a diminution in their numbers.

Munn found a nest this year (1904) built inside a blackbird's, from which a brood of young blackbirds had already flown.

46. *Motacilla melanope*. Grey Wagtail.

A local resident, largely reinforced in winter.

Our county is not particularly well-suited to this beautiful bird, but its nest has been found in the following localities: Fordingbridge (Yarrell), Romsey (Medley), Southwick and the Iron Mills, near Fareham (Stares), near Brambridge (Sutton Davies), Avington (Bowdler Sharpe), Hurstbourne and Shawford (Munn), Alton (Kelsall).

Gilbert White evidently included this under the name of yellow wagtail when he wrote in his thirteenth Letter to Pennant that yellow wagtails were to be seen both summer and winter.

In the Observations on Birds he speaks of "wagtails, white and gray," attending upon cattle, but there is no evidence that he gave the name to the yellow-breasted species which now bears it.

We have never noticed this species attending upon cattle, though *Motacilla raii* does.

47. *Motacilla flava*. Blue-headed Yellow-Wagtail.

An occasional summer visitor.

It has only been recorded from the New Forest district in 1876 and 1883 (Hart); but is probably overlooked in other parts of the county.

48. *Motacilla raii*. Yellow Wagtail.

BARLEY-BIRD. YELLOW MOLLY.

A summer visitor.

This species is local in its distribution, but is specially plentiful in the larger river valleys, where there are large extents of water-meadows or marsh-land.

It usually appears in April and remains until September, but there is a specimen in the Alton Museum from that district dated March, 1901, which is a remarkably early date.

Wise says that it is known in the New Forest as the "barley bird," as it appears about the time the barley is sown; and it is still known by that name. White did not discriminate between this bird and the grey wagtail.¹

Mr. Willett has one in his collection procured at St. Catherine's Lighthouse on September 24th, 1892.

¹ Letter xiii. to Pennant. Selborne. January 22nd, 1768.

GENUS—*Anthus*.49. *Anthus pratensis*. **Meadow-Pipit.**

TIT-LARK.

A common resident.

Found in all suitable parts of the county and Isle of Wight. In the New Forest it is a characteristic bird, because of the presence of large tracts of uncultivated moorland.

Wise calls it the "butty lark," that is, "companion bird," of the New Forest; so called because it is often seen pursuing the cuckoo, which the peasant takes to be a sign of attachment instead of anger.

We have a record of a "titlark" observed at the Warner Light Vessel on May 31st, 1902, at 9 a.m., which rested on the vessel, and then flew off north-west.

50. *Anthus trivialis*. **Tree-Pipit.**

A summer visitor.

It arrives in April—not very early in the month—and generally departs towards the end of September.

It is found in all parts of the county and Isle of Wight, but is not nearly so plentiful anywhere as the last species.

Gilbert White designated both the tree-pipit and meadow-pipit as "titlark," and apparently confused the two species¹ and thus omitted the tree-pipit from the list of summer migrants in the sixteenth letter to Pennant.

¹ Letter xxxix. to Pennant. Selborne. November 9th, 1773.

51. *Anthus campestris*. Tawny Pipit.

A rare accidental visitor.

One in Mr. Hart's collection was shot at Stanpit, near Christchurch, in August, 1879.

It is a native of Central and Southern Europe, Central Asia and North Africa.

[*Anthus richardi*. Richard's Pipit.]

A pipit was seen by Hadfield at Ventnor, in the Isle of Wight, in May, 1865,¹ and on comparison with Temminck's description he was satisfied that it belonged to this species, but we do not consider the identification sufficient to include it.]

52. *Anthus spipoletta*. Water-Pipit.

A very rare accidental visitor.

There was a specimen in the collection of the late F. Bond that was killed at Freshwater, in the Isle of Wight, in September, 1865. Bond wrote to Kelsall that the bird was so immature that there was some doubt as to the identification, but the late Rev. H. A. Macpherson subsequently informed us that it certainly belongs to this species.

This was not included in Kelsall's first list, but was added in the supplement ("Hants Field Club Proceedings," Vol. III., Part III.).

¹ "Zoologist."

It is a native of Central and Southern Europe, and Central Asia, and is found in North Africa.

53. *Anthus obscurus*. Rock-Pipit.

A common resident on the coast.

It is particularly plentiful on the Isle of Wight shores.

FAMILY—*Oriolidæ*.

GENUS—*Oriolus*.

54. *Oriolus galbula*. Golden Oriole.

A rare occasional summer visitor.

The description of an immature male in Yarrell, was taken from a specimen taken at Aldershot in April, 1824, and afterwards placed in the Eton College Museum, where it still remains.

The following examples have been placed on record :—

One near Portsmouth, about 1845 (Pearce).

One in the New Forest, about 1845 (Wise).

One seen at Freshwater in May, 1859 (More).

One at Shalfleet in 1861 (Rogers).

One at Christchurch in May, 1869 (Hart).

One at Freshwater in May 1883 (Hadfield, "Zoologist," 1884).

One at Christchurch, May 15th, 1884 (Hart).

One at Woolston, near Southampton, August, 1889 (Miss Longmore).

One at Avington in December, 1897 (G. W. Smith, "Zoologist," 1898), a remarkable date.

An adult female, picked up in a dying condition at Shanklin, on May 3rd, 1899 (Poole).

Hart has an egg in his collection, which he took in the neighbourhood of Christchurch, and there is no doubt the bird would nest in the county if it were not so cruelly persecuted.

Examples have also occurred at Worthing and at Beaulieu, and there is a pair in the Earl of Malmesbury's collection at Heron Court.

The specimen in the Alton Museum came from Christchurch.

FAMILY—*Laniidæ*.

GENUS—*Lanius*.

55. *Lanius excubitor*. Great Grey Shrike.

A regular winter visitor, in very small numbers.

We should scarcely have ventured thus to classify this bird, but for the evidence of Mr. Meade-Waldo, who writes as follows in the Victoria History: "I have rarely failed to see one or more at different times during the winter on the Beaulieu and Hill Top plains" (in the New Forest).

There are numerous records from all parts of the county and island.

Gilbert White writes, in the thirty-ninth Letter to Pennant (November, 1773), that a great ash-coloured butcher-bird was shot last winter in Tisted Park.

A male was shot by Mr. Butler, of Yarmouth, from a

pair seen on Yarmouth Common in the spring of 1841 (Bury, "Zoologist," 1844).

Wise writes that a straggler is killed now and then by the forest keepers.

One near Christchurch, December, 1875 (Hart's collection).

One at Alton (Bell's Edition of White).

One at Brading in 1881 (Hadfield).

One near Christchurch, December 31st, 1884 (Hart).

One at Newport, October 27th, 1887 (Hadfield, in the "Zoologist," 1889).

One in Lord Malmesbury's collection at Heron Court, shot at Haddon, Hill, 1889.

One near Christchurch, November 15th, 1889 (Hart).

Two at Stockbridge, 1890 (Winchester College collection).

As we consider *Lanius major* (Pallas's great grey shrike) is but a form of the foregoing we have not included the following under the heading of a separate species.

Mr. Sutton Davies writes as follows in the "Zoologist" of 1894: "After I had sent in my notes for 1892, a barred woodpecker was shot in the last week of December; and, in the same week, a great grey shrike was shot at Chilbolton and sent to Mr. Chalkley's to be set up. I saw the bird, which showed the white bar on the primaries only, and therefore was probably the *L. major* of Pallas."

This bird has not been included in any previous list of Hampshire Birds.

It very closely resembles the last, and is found from North Scandinavia eastwards throughout Siberia. It is distinguished from *Lanius excubitor* by having a white bar

on the primaries only, the bases of the secondaries being black, thus showing a single white bar on the wings; in *Lanius excubitor* the bases of the secondaries are white, the wings exhibiting a double white bar.

56. *Lanius minor*. Lesser Grey Shrike.

A rare accidental visitor.

There is a specimen in the Earl of Malmesbury's collection at Heron Court that was shot near that place in September, 1842. It is the first of this species known to have occurred in Britain, and the specimen lay for many years unnoticed until it was identified in the year 1894 by the Rev. M. A. Mathew, who records the fact in the "Zoologist" of that year, and describes it as a fine adult bird.

In Mr. Hart's collection at Christchurch is a male in splendid plumage, procured on the Poors Common, Bournemouth, June 2nd, 1900.

It is a native of Central and Southern Europe, North Africa, and is found eastwards through Persia. In winter it visits South Africa.

57. *Lanius collurio*. Red-backed Shrike.

BUTCHER-BIRD. JACK BAKER. POPE.

"For nature is one with rapine, a harm no preacher can heal;
The Mayfly is torn by the swallow, the sparrow spear'd by the shrike,
And the whole little wood where I sit is a world of plunder and prey."

Tennyson's "Maud."

A summer visitor.

It arrives in May, and is now found in most parts

of the county and Isle of Wight, but usually not very plentifully. Of late years its range has greatly extended.

It usually departs in August, but one was shot at Whitchurch several years ago in the winter, in the company of a number of finches and small birds.

Gilbert White considered it a rare bird, and procured one on May 21st, 1768, which "might easily have escaped notice had not the outcries and chatterings of the white-throats and other small birds drawn attention to the bush where it was."¹

He mentions another shot at Selborne about the year 1773.²

There is an old story that the shrike imitates the cries of other birds in order to lure them to destruction, and when a pair nested in Kelsall's garden at Milton in 1903 he noticed that the cries of the young bird (the only survivor of the brood) sounded exactly like the cries of a bird in pain, and might well have drawn other species to the spot.

Mr. Richardson, the owner of a game-farm at Morestead, near Winchester, tells us that these birds were so troublesome in attacking the young pheasants in the year 1900 that he was obliged to destroy no fewer than twenty-five of the butcher-birds.

58. *Lanius pomeranus*. Woodchat.

A rare accidental visitor.

It has occurred at Christchurch in June, 1875, and May, 1880 (Hart). Mr. Bond obtained its eggs near

¹ Letter xx. to Pennant. Selborne. October 3rd, 1768.

² Letter xxxix. to Pennant. Selborne. November 9th, 1773.

Freshwater, in the Isle of Wight, and one of the young birds of the second brood in September, 1856 (More). This clutch was sold with the Bidwell collection in 1904, together with the other clutch mentioned by Yarrell.

Gilbert White wrote¹:—"Farmer Hoare's son shot a hen woodchat, or small butcher-bird, as it was washing at Wellhead, attended by the cock"; and again² of another that was sent to him, but may not, perhaps, have been procured in the county.

It is a bird that Pennant at the time of publishing his "British Zoology" had not seen; and was considered by Gilbert White—as were all the shrikes—a rare bird in these parts.

It is found in Central and Southern Europe and North Africa, and eastwards as far as Persia.

FAMILY—*Ampelidæ*.

GENUS—*Ampelis*.

59. *Ampelis garrulus*. Waxwing.

An irregular winter visitor from the Arctic regions, which has occurred in all parts of the county and the Isle of Wight.

Gilbert White mentions in his twelfth letter to Pennant that a male specimen was shot in his neighbourhood in the severe weather of January, 1767.

Longcroft records one as occurring at Emsworth in the winter of 1779-80.

¹ "Gleanings in Natural History." 2nd Series, by E. Jesse.

² Letter xxv. to Pennant. Selborne. August 30th, 1769.

Wise mentions that Hart told him of a specimen shot "about twelve years ago" (*i.e.*, about 1850) at Milton, on the south border of the forest. The Hart collection contains examples taken in the forest in the years 1866 and 1872, and Mr. Corbin vouches for one from the same district in 1873.

Dr. Welch, of Netley Hospital, informed Kelsall of one which appeared near Southampton "about the year 1884."

Mr. Meade-Waldo says that "in the severe weather of February, 1895, two came and fed on currants that were placed for thrushes under a large silver-fir on my lawn."

Hadfield writes in the "Zoologist" of 1884 that a pair was procured at Freshwater as late as April, 1883, in summer plumage, with the wax-like appendages to the tail as well as the wings, and that though several others were observed at the same time, all had disappeared by the end of May.

Dr. Cowper saw a flock of five passing over Shanklin in the winter of 1894-5. ("Hants Court Guide.")

FAMILY—*Muscicapidae*.

GENUS—*Muscicapa*.

60. *Muscicapa grisola*. Spotted Flycatcher.

WALL BIRD. BEAM BIRD.

A common summer visitor to all parts of the county and Isle of Wight.

It arrives late, usually at the beginning of May, and departs in September.

Its nest is frequently found in curious situations; a pair at Laverstoke built theirs inside a lantern that stood on a shelf inside a greenhouse.

Gilbert White, writing his tenth letter to Pennant in August, 1767, remarks that "The Stoparola of Ray (for which we have as yet no name in these parts) is called, in your Zoology, the 'flycatcher.'"

He then describes the now familiar fly-catching habits of the bird, which, in spite of its dull colouring, so clearly distinguish it from the other birds of the garden, and notes in his "Journal" on July 4th, 1776, that it "is a very harmless and honest bird, meddling with nothing but insects."

Kingsley writes of "those little, dumb darlings, the spotted flycatchers, who seem to have absolutely nothing to say, and accordingly have the wit to hold their tongues." ¹

61. *Muscicapa atricapilla*. Pied Flycatcher.

A rare summer visitor.

Specimens have been obtained in the New Forest district on May 8th, 1879, and June, 1879 (Hart); at Southsea in April, 1886 (Pearce); and at Winchester in 1899 (College Museum); it has also been noted at Overton (Munn).

In the Isle of Wight, Bury says it has been met with by Mr. Butler, of Yarmouth, and More says that several were observed at Freshwater in 1859.

Hadfield writes in the "Zoologist" for 1883, that a pair were seen at Freshwater on May 12th, 1882, and he knew of two being shot, one at Sea View and another near Ryde;

¹ "Charm of Birds,"

and again in the "Zoologist" for 1889, he notes that on April 26th and 30th specimens were procured at Newport.

The following nests are on record :—

One at Freshwater in 1858 (More).

One in Wherwell Park (W. H. Turle).

One at Nursling (W. H. Turle).

One at Hackwood Park (Munn).

Several in the New Forest (Hart and Turle).

FAMILY—*Hirundinidæ*.

GENUS—*Hirundo*.

62. *Hirundo rustica*. Swallow.

"For Knowledge is the swallow on the lake
That sees and stirs the surface-shadow there,
But never yet hath dipt into the abysm."

Tennyson's "Ancient Sage."

A common summer visitor to all parts.

It arrives in April and departs in October, but in many districts is certainly less plentiful than formerly.

Gilbert White was of opinion that many hibernated in Britain—coming forth from their retreats on fine sunny days in winter; with this exception, his descriptions of this and the kindred species are uncommonly full and accurate. The earliest date in his Calendar is March 26th. Mr. Hart has recorded in the "Field" that he saw three young birds in Christchurch on January 8th and 9th, 1890.

Mr. Meade-Waldo has records of it as early as March 18th, and as late as December 7th, in the neighbourhood of Lymington, and has seen it in considerable numbers

in November. He considers it arrives as early and remains as late in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight as anywhere in the British Isles; but Dr. Cowper is not of opinion that the Isle of Wight is favoured by any specially early arrival of this species, though they remain later than in most other places, for they may frequently be observed late in November, and he has seen a few as late as the 23rd of December.

In 1902 there are numerous records of this species from the Warner Light Vessel, extending from May 4th until June 14th; during this period single specimens or small flocks were constantly noted, all of them during early morning and the daytime, and all flying north or north-west.

One record only is from the Needles Lighthouse on August 26th, when specimens were noted flying west.

GENUS—*Chelidon*.

63. *Chelidon urbica*. Martin.

A common summer visitor.

It arrives rather later than the swallow, and departs in October, sometimes remaining to November.

We consider this species rather local in distribution, usually repairing to the same nesting-places year after year, and not much favouring fresh situations for their nests; though apparently the eaves of an adjoining house may be equally suitable, they may, for some reason or other, be never occupied.

In the Isle of Wight they nest under the ledges of the

cliffs—Mr. Poole has noted them at Small Hope Cliff, Shanklin; and Munn at Dunnose and Freshwater Cliffs, and indeed they are found on most of the Island cliffs.

The earliest date, in White's Calendar, of their arrival, is March 28th.

The final flight of martins is expected in France about St. Martin's Day, November 11th, and they may occasionally be seen in Hampshire about that date, certainly not our own birds, but some that have spent the summer further to the north.

The following are examples :—

Hillhead. November 14th, 1882. (Kelsall.)

Fareham. November 13th, 1885. (Kelsall.)

Milton. November 12th, 1902. (Kelsall.)

Lymington. November 9th, 1896. "Some thousands."
(Meade-Waldo.)

Isle of Wight. "Frequently in November." (Cowper.)

GENUS—*Cotile*.

64. *Cotile riparia*. Sand-Martin.

A summer visitor.

It is found in all parts of the county and the Isle of Wight, where suitable nesting-places abound; it does not, however, always confine itself to sandy pits or banks, but occasionally chooses chalk-pits or embankments, where there are patches of soil soft enough in which to make nesting-holes; and it even nests in the crevices of old walls.

Gilbert White¹ mentions their nesting in the scaffold

¹ Letter xx. to Barrington. Selborne. February 26th, 1774.

holes of the back wall of William of Wykeham's stables at Bishop's Waltham, and we find that they still nest there. This is the last bird mentioned by White. In Letter x. to Marsham, dated Selborne, June 15th, 1793, he says :—
 "After a mild, wet winter we have experienced a very hard backward spring, with nothing but N. and N.E. winds. All the *Hirundines* except the sand-martins were very tardy, and do not seem even yet to make any advance towards breeding. As to the sand-martins, they were seen playing in and out of their holes in a sand-cliff as early as April 9th. Hence I am confirmed in what I have long suspected, that they are the most early species." At the head of this letter in Marsham's handwriting is :—
 "This worthy man died this month."

His death took place on the 26th of June, 1793.

They arrive towards the end of March, and depart in October. The earliest date in White's Calendar is March 21st, but we have modern records for the 16th, 18th, 19th March.

FAMILY—*Certhiidae*.

GENUS—*Certhia*.

65. *Certhia familiaris*. Tree-Creeper.

TREE-RUNNER. TREE-CLIMBER.

Resident in all wooded parts of the county and the Isle of Wight, and not uncommon.

Wise mentions its nesting inside a squirrel's "cage" (or nest)—an unusual situation for this bird to nest in, but one often chosen by some of the tits.

There is a Hampshire nest in the British Museum.

FAMILY—*Fringillidæ*.SUB-FAMILY—*Fringillinæ*.GENUS—*Carduelis*.**66. *Carduelis elegans*. Goldfinch.**

A resident in all parts.

The number of this species is greatly increased in the autumn, throughout the county and the Isle of Wight, by migrants, and it is from these chiefly that bird-catchers take the heaviest toll. The quantity of birds nesting does not seem either to increase or decrease much, and from the fact that they nest late, and often in the high branches of thickly-foliaged trees, they do not appear to be so plentiful during the summer as they really are.

GENUS—*Chrysomitris*.**67. *Chrysomitris spinus*. Siskin.**

A winter visitor ; never occurring in any numbers.

Has been recorded from Overton, Alton, Avington, Hamble, Fareham, Portsmouth, Langrish, Wolmer Forest, Christchurch, the New Forest, and the Isle of Wight.

Mr. Hart says that many are caught on the New Forest coast in autumn.

GENUS—*Serinus*.**68. *Serinus hortulanus*. Serin.**

A very rare accidental visitor.

The first-recorded instance of the occurrence of this species in England was that of a specimen procured at Eastney, near Portsmouth, in April, 1852, by the Rev. W. Hazel, and noted by him in the "Naturalist" for 1853.

It is found throughout the greater part of Southern and Central Europe and round the shores of the Mediterranean.

GENUS—*Ligurinus*.**69. *Ligurinus chloris*. Greenfinch.**

GREEN LINNET.

A very common resident in all parts of the county and Isle of Wight.

Gilbert White has noticed the peculiar flight of this species during the pairing season—"the greenfinch in particular exhibits such languishing and faltering gestures as to appear like a wounded and dying bird."¹

¹ Letter xlii. to Barrington. Selborne. August 7th, 1778.



HAWFINCH. (IN A SOUTHAMPTON GARDEN.)

From a Photograph by Mr. Smith Whiting.

GENUS—*Coccothraustes*.**70. *Coccothraustes vulgaris*. Hawfinch.**

COW-BIRD (Isle of Wight).

A resident. During spring and summer it is sparingly distributed throughout the county, but there is a considerable increase in their numbers in autumn and winter.

In the Isle of Wight it has occurred only in the winter. It is a species which appears to be increasing in all parts.

Gilbert White in his eleventh letter to Pennant¹ says :—"Three gros-beaks appeared some years ago in my fields, in the winter; one of which I shot: since that, now and then, one is occasionally seen in the same dead season."

And Wise, writing a hundred years later, says that the New Forest hawfinches "do not stay all the year round, as might be expected, or, at least, only one or two pairs, simply because there are no hornbeams in the forest, nor gardens to tempt them with their fruit."

But Mr. Meade-Waldo says that "in winter I have seen frequently as many as two hundred individuals collected together in a kind of straggling flock . . . it is certainly very far from scarce at the present day."

Bell writes in his edition of White's Selborne :—"It is a mistake to suppose that this bird is only seen in the depth of winter. On the 17th of August, 1859, I picked up on my lawn the wing and some feathers of one which had doubtless been killed by a cat.

"On the 8th of April, 1867, I saw a pair of them fly across the lawn into an *Abies Douglasii*.

¹ Selborne. September 9th, 1767.

"Nor is the occurrence of this bird in Selborne and the neighbourhood a very rare circumstance.

"A neighbour has two of them stuffed, both of which were killed in my grounds, and a fine female was found dead on the lawn behind my house in January, 1871, probably killed by the intense cold. The late Captain Chawner assured me that it is seen not infrequently at Newton, and that it has bred there. I have also seen it at Chawton. Doubleday states that their favourite food is the seed of the hornbeam, and it is not improbable that they are attracted to my premises by a remarkably fine tree of this species." ¹

Among other localities, nests have been found in recent years at Winchester, Sutton Scotney, Stockbridge, near Basingstoke, at Alresford, Liss, Southwick and Woolston.

GENUS—*Passer*.

71. *Passer domesticus*. House-Sparrow.

An abundant resident throughout the county and the Isle of Wight.

It is the happy privilege of those who live in the New Forest to be able to walk for a whole day without seeing this bird, but in order to perform the feat they must not start from a railway station.

The sparrow is associated in Hampshire with the two most unlike of all our worthies, who would indeed be surprised to see themselves commemorated in the same paragraph. All Hampshire people know that Miss

¹ Bell's edition of White's Selborne. Vol. i., p. 32.

Yonge's house at Otterbourne was called "Elderfield." She tells us in "John Keble's Parishes," that the retired farmer after whom it was named made it his business to exterminate the village sparrows. "He often brought them down to one, but always by the next morning the sparrow had provided himself with a mate to share his Castle Dangerous."

When John Wilkes retired to his villakin, as he called it, at Sandown, among less pleasing anecdotes of his old age, we read that "of birds he was so tender, that he was accustomed to fasten open boxes filled with corn to the branches of his trees." (Adams' "History of the Isle of Wight.")

72. *Passer montanus*. **Tree-Sparrow.**

A resident species, but plentiful only in winter in most districts in the county, and not so common in the Isle of Wight.

As a breeding species it is distinctly rare, and even unknown, in many parts.

The nest has been found in the New Forest, at Bursledon and Laverstoke.

GENUS—*Fringilla*.

73. *Fringilla cælebs*. **Chaffinch.**

CHINK. CHINKER.

A common resident in all parts of the county and Isle of Wight.

Gilbert White was one of the first to remark on the separation of the sexes of this species in winter in England, and communicated it to Pennant, who noted it in his "Zoology." "For many years past I have observed that towards Christmas vast flocks of chaffinches have appeared in the fields; many more I used to think than could be hatched in any one neighbourhood. But when I came to observe them more narrowly, I was amazed to find that they seemed to me to be almost all hens. I communicated my suspicions to some intelligent neighbours, who after taking pains about the matter declared that they also thought them all mostly females; at least fifty to one."¹

Tennyson surely refers to this bird when he writes in the "Idylls of the King":

"There is a little helpless innocent bird
That has but one plain passage of few notes,
Will sing the simple passage o'er and o'er
For all one April morning, till the ear
Wearies to hear it."

If the following is a piece of genuine folk-lore, perhaps it is worth preserving:—"It was told me at Hurstbourne that when the yellowhammer sings 'A little bit of bread and no cheese,' the chaffinch replies, 'I haven't had a bit of bread and cheese this five year.'" (Kelsall.)

Miss Yonge records that the late Mr. Thomas Chamberlayne, of Cranbury, made the chaffinches so tame that they took grain from his pockets.²

¹ Letter xiii. to Pennant. Selborne. January 22nd, 1768.

² "John Keble's Parishes."

74. *Fringilla montifringilla.* Brambling.

A winter visitor.

It has occurred in all parts of the county, and is sometimes very numerous; it is irregular as to its time of appearance, according to the severity or mildness of the winter. It departs in March at latest.

Gilbert White in his Calendar notes having received two on January 21st, 1775, and on February 23rd following, observes: "Flocks of hen chaffinches with some bramblings among them."

In his "Journal" he says—January 16th, 1776—"Brambling appears in farmyards among the chaffinches." These entries show that he was acquainted with the brambling.

In the Isle of Wight, though universally distributed, it is not so common, and Dr. Cowper calls it rare.

GENUS—*Linota*.

75. *Linota cannabina.* Linnet.

GREY LINNET.

"Next morning while he past the dim-lit woods,
Himself beheld three spirits mad with joy
Come dashing down on a tall wayside flower,
That shook beneath them, as the thistle shakes
When three gray linnets wrangle for the seed."

Tennyson's "Guinevere."

A common resident everywhere.

Gilbert White has noted the vast flocks of this species in winter¹—"more, I think, than can be bred in any one

¹ Letter xiii. to Pennant. Selborne. January 22nd, 1768.

district. These, I observe, when the spring advances, assemble on some tree in the sunshine, and join all in a gentle sort of chirping, as if they were about to break up their winter quarters, and betake themselves to their proper summer houses."

No doubt many migrants spend the winter with us. We have a record from the Warner Light Vessel of three seen on May 31st, 1902, passing north-west.

76. *Linota linaria*. **Mealy Redpoll.**

An accidental winter visitor.

The male bird in the Hart collection was taken in the New Forest in 1864.

There are two specimens in the Alton Museum from that district, presented by Mr. Pullinger, but unfortunately no date is attached to them.

77. *Linota rufescens*. **Lesser Redpoll.**

A winter visitor to all parts, sometimes fairly plentiful, particularly at the times of autumn and spring migration.

A few remain to nest.

Mr. Willmore found the nest at Queenwood in 1888, and Munn has seen the bird at Laverstoke in summer.

In the Isle of Wight, Bury records a nest taken in Shanklin Chine on May 17th, 1843, and More says it has occurred at Freshwater in June, 1855.

Dr. Cowper, however, says it is not uncommon, but probably does not breed.

78. *Linota flavirostris*. Twite.

A scarce winter visitor.

In the Hart collection is a male specimen, procured October 29th, and a female, November 1st, 1877, from the district.

Bury reports it as once seen in Freshwater Down by Mr. Butler, and Pearce records two from the neighbourhood of Portsmouth.

Among the vast flocks of small birds which assemble throughout the county in winter it is surprising that more examples of the mealy redpoll and twite are not observed.

SUB-FAMILY—*Loxia*.

GENUS—*Pyrrhula*.

79. *Pyrrhula europæa*. Bullfinch.

A common resident throughout the county and Isle of Wight.

No migration of this species is observable within our limits.

GENUS—*Pinicola*.

80. *Pinicola enucleator*. Pine-grosbeak.

A very rare accidental visitor.

The male specimen in the Hart collection was formerly in the possession of the late H. Treasure Jenkins, who said

it was killed in the neighbourhood of the New Forest many years ago. Mr. Hart purchased it at his sale in 1876.

Mr. J. H. Gurney wrote an article on the occurrence of this species in Great Britain in the "Zoologist" of 1890, in which he remarks that the specimen is among the four most authentic examples recorded. He says it was stuffed by Barrow, of Christchurch, that Mr. Jenkins is believed to have had no foreign skins, and that this one "certainly looks as if it had been mounted from the flesh at a time when bird-stuffing was not the advanced art which it is at the present day." In the same article he mentions that four pine-grosbeaks were received in the flesh by a taxidermist at Great Yarmouth, about March 1st, 1889, "affirmed to have been shot in the Wolmer Forest, Hampshire," but he believes they were sent in ice from Russia; and Mr. O. V. Aplin, writing in the same volume, thinks "there can be no doubt" of their foreign origin, having himself received two specimens from Leadenhall Market, within a week of the same date, which had been sent in a frozen condition from Northern Europe.

GENUS—*Loxia*.

81. *Loxia curvirostra*. Crossbill.

An irregular and uncertain visitor, chiefly between midsummer and February, which has frequently nested on the mainland. The status of this eccentric bird is most difficult to define, and we have quoted the first portion of the foregoing sentence from the "Ibis" List of British Birds.

Gilbert White records¹ that "a crossbill was killed last year in this neighbourhood," but his two other references to this bird are dated from Ringmer, in Sussex.

Longcroft mentions one shot at Havant, in 1810.

Yarrell records that a large flight was spread over England from the summer of 1835 until the year 1839. Among them was doubtless the so-called parrot crossbill, mentioned in Blyth's edition of White's *Selborne* as having been killed in the New Forest in the autumn of 1835 or 1836.

Yarrell remarks that they are particularly numerous in Hampshire, in 1838, "twenty having been killed by one person during the first week in August."

In the following year he says that he received from Mr. H. L. Long a nest, two eggs and a nestling, which had been procured in Holt Forest, all of which specimens were exhibited to the Zoological Society soon after, and he quotes Mr. Long as having discovered at least three nests in this forest in the same year. The nestling above mentioned is fully described in the same work. It was supposed to be about three weeks old, and its mandibles were not yet crossed. Yarrell also examined a specimen which was "undoubtedly bred in this country the same year (1839), and obtained near Winchester at the end of March . . . and there was not the slightest indication as to which side either mandible would hereafter have been inclined."

The late Frederick Bond possessed three examples of the parrot crossbill (which is not now considered a distinct species, but a large stout-billed form, which only differs from the common species in its varying size), one of them shot out of a flock of eleven near Lymington in March, 1842.

¹ Letter xi. to Pennant. *Selborne*. September 9th, 1767.

The next large flight seems to have visited the county about the year 1855, in which year Dr. Rake informed Wise¹ that a parrot crossbill was killed at Breamore, November 28th, 1855, out of a flock of a dozen, and that a few days afterwards several more were killed.

Wise also records that Mr. Farrar mentions a common crossbill's nest built in a fir-tree in a garden near Lyndhurst, June, 1858, off which the birds were shot, but unfortunately not preserved, though their identity is beyond dispute. (The date, however, of this nest is unusually late.) And he says that a large flock frequented the plantations round Burley in December, 1861.

The other two specimens of the parrot crossbill in F. Bond's collection were killed near Christchurch in 1862,² and the example in Hart's collection of this larger form bears the same date.

In the year 1877, Mr. G. J. D. Lee wrote to the "Zoologist," recording a nest with four young, found on March 16th in a fir on the outskirts of Bournemouth; and four specimens in the Alton Museum are labelled "Alton, 1878."

Bell's edition of White's Selborne, published in 1877, mentions that the crossbill has nested at Alton, but gives no date. About the year 1892, another large flight visited the New Forest district, and, for a time, they were said to be as common as sparrows in the streets of Bournemouth.

A pair preserved with their nest in the Hart collection are dated March 31st of that year, and Mr. W. H. Turle wrote to the "Hampshire Chronicle" that he saw a brood being fed by their parents in Southampton Cemetery on July 10th.

¹ "New Forest." 1862.

² Yarrell.

Mr. Corbin noticed the species at Bournemouth in July, 1897,¹ and again in the same locality in August in the following year. They were numerous round Ringwood from January to November, 1898, and in other parts of the New Forest as well, and no doubt nested in some localities.²

Mr. Meade-Waldo, writing about 1899, says that they arrive in July in most years, sometimes in great numbers. In the Isle of Wight, More noticed it at Bembridge in the summers of 1849 and 1850, and also near Freshwater, and Dr. Cowper speaks of its occurring in winter, but not commonly.

82. *Loxia bifasciata*. Two-barred Crossbill.

A very rare accidental visitor.

Two birds were procured in the Isle of Wight about 1838, by Mr. Butler, of Yarmouth, "which he supposed to be only the common crossbill in one of its many stages of plumage, but the conspicuous white bars across the wings described by him seemed to decide that they belonged to the rarer species."³

It is a native of Northern Russia and Siberia.

This bird is omitted from Mr. Meade-Waldo's list.

¹ "Zoologist." 1897.

² "Zoologist." 1898.

³ Bury. "Zoologist." 1844.

SUB-FAMILY—*Emberizinae*.GENUS—*Emberiza*.**83. *Emberiza miliaria*. Corn-Bunting.**

COMMON BUNTING. BUNT-LARK. CLOD-LARK.

A resident, and a fairly plentiful species in all suitable localities in the county and Isle of Wight.

Gilbert White writes ¹ of this bird: "You may depend on it that the bunting, *Emberiza miliaria*, does not leave this country in the winter. In January, 1767, I saw several dozen of them, in the midst of a severe frost, among the bushes on the downs near Andover; in our woodland enclosed district it is a rare bird."

In his Calendar, under July 21st, 1773, he notes: "I am not sure that I ever saw one before in Selborne."

84. *Emberiza citrinella*. Yellow Hammer.

YELLOW BUNTING.

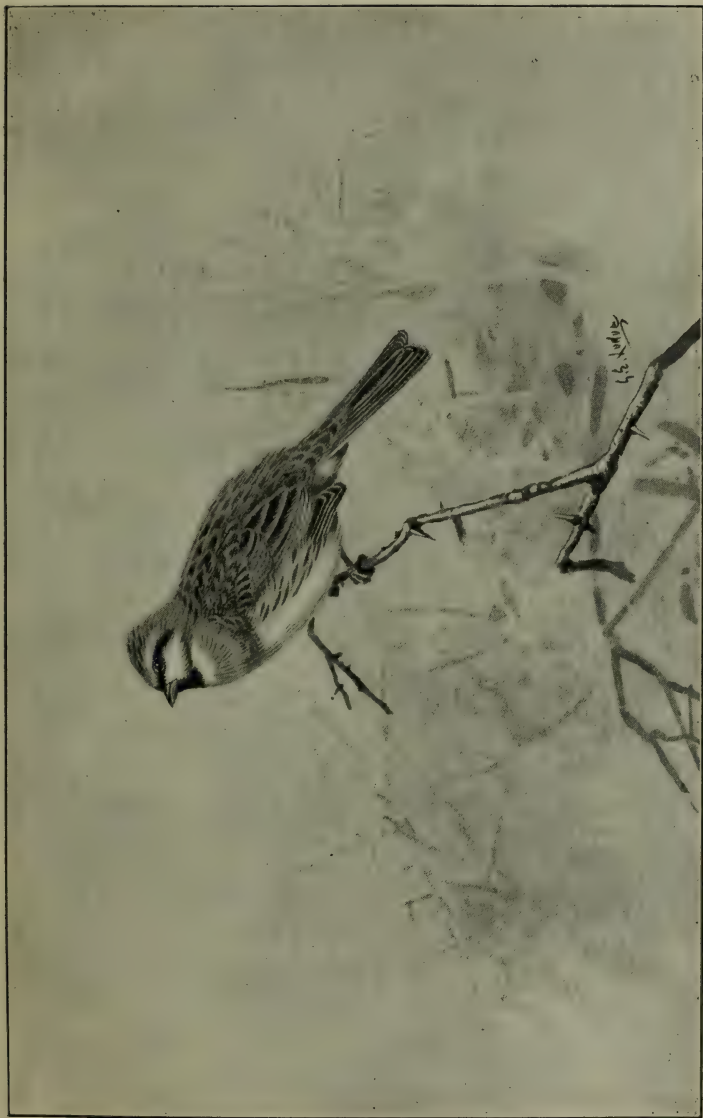
An abundant resident in all parts of the county and Isle of Wight.

Gilbert White writes ²: "I heard many birds of several species sing last year after midsummer; enough to prove that the summer solstice is not the period that puts a stop to the music of the woods. The yellow hammer, no doubt, persists with more steadiness than any other." And again ³

¹ Letter xiii. to Pennant. Selborne. January 22nd, 1768.

² Letter v. to Barrington. Selborne. April 12th, 1770.

³ Letter iii. to Barrington. Selborne. January 15th, 1770.



CIRL BUNTING.

From a Drawing by Mr. G. E. Lodge.

—that they breed very late; “and therefore it is no wonder that they protract their song: for I lay it down as a maxim in ornithology, that as long as there is any incubation going on there is music.”

A nest was found at Laverstoke on May 22nd, 1897, in which were three yellow hammer's eggs and one white-throat's. The whitethroat was leaving the nest as it was discovered, and presumably had just laid.

85. *Emberiza cirrus*. Cirl Bunting.

A local resident throughout the county and the Isle of Wight.

This handsome bird is highly characteristic of the southern portions of the county and the coast districts of the island, and is also found commonly in most inland localities, but not in all.

It is somewhat remarkable that it was unknown to Gilbert White, being first discovered as a British bird by his correspondent, Montagu, in Devonshire, only eleven years after the publication of the History of Selborne.

Two letters from Montagu to White are preserved in Bell's edition, but they contain no allusion to the cirl bunting.

In the second volume of the “Naturalist” the late Mr. Blyth remarked that the cirl is “nowhere more plentiful than in the vicinity of Alton, whence it is strange that Gilbert White should have overlooked it.” The date of this communication is 1837.

Professor Bell, who edited one of the best editions of White's Selborne, himself lived at the Wakes for more

than thirty years, and tells us that he discovered this bird in Selborne in the year 1848, "when a pair built in a large maple in my grounds, and brought up a brood of five young ones. They bred near the same spot in several following years, and were remarkably tame, allowing us to approach within a few yards of them, without exhibiting any signs of fear."

Mr. Hudson visited Selborne in July, 1901, and in his charming "*Hampshire Days*" writes — "At about four o'clock each morning the lively vigorous song of the ciril bunting would be heard from the gardens or grounds of the Wakes, at the foot of the hill. From four to six, at intervals, was his best singing time; later in the day he sang at much longer intervals. There appeared to be three pairs of breeding birds: one at the Wakes, another on the top of the hill to the left of the zig-zag path, and a third below the churchyard. The cock-bird of the last pair sang at intervals every day during my visit from a tree in the churchyard, and from a big sycamore growing at the side of it. . . . I was often at Farringdon, a village close by, and there, too, the churchyard had its ciril bunting, singing merrily at intervals from a perch not above thirty yards from the building. And as at Selborne and Farringdon, so I have found it in most places in Hampshire, especially in the southern half of the county; the ciril is the village bunting whose favourite singing place is in the quiet churchyard or the shade-trees at the farm; compared with other members of the genus he might almost be called our domestic bunting. The yellow hammer is never heard in a village; at Selborne to find him we had to climb a hill and go out on the common, and there he could be heard drawling out his lazy song all day long.

How curious to think that Gilbert White never distinguished between these two species, although it is probable that he heard the cirle on every summer day during the greater part of his life."

When the Rev. C. A. Bury wrote an account of the birds of the Isle of Wight for Adams' History, about the year 1856, he found this bird "not uncommon, but seldom found far from the sea. It is a late breeder, but occasionally, at least, rears a second brood."

Mr. A. G. More, writing about 1860, describes it as "resident in the Isle of Wight, generally distributed all over the island, especially near the coast. One of the commonest hedge birds about Brading and Bembridge."

At the present time Dr. Cowper says it is fairly common throughout the island, and Mr. Poole writes that it may be found in some numbers in certain favoured localities, and he has seen it frequently in Whitecliff Bay.

In the New Forest, Wise gives only two localities for the nest, namely, Wootton and Brockenhurst, but at the present time it certainly extends all along the southern edge of that district, from Christchurch to Exbury and Hythe.

Mr. Meade-Waldo writes as follows: "I should consider the cirle bunting a characteristic Hampshire bird, certainly in the districts with which I am best acquainted. It is a common inhabitant of all the surroundings of the New Forest, although it does not penetrate much into the forest itself; its favourite haunts seem to be wooded fields, with a certain amount of high hedgerow timber, from the top of which its monotonous trill, somewhat resembling the first part of the song of the yellow hammer, may be heard from March to November. In its favourite districts it certainly out-

numbers the yellow hammer." Mr. Meade-Waldo has told us that this last remark is true of the village of Boldre.

It nests every year in the rectory garden at Milton; this year (1904) in a silver fir.

Throughout the Central Hill district it is universally distributed, though scarcer about the downs in the extreme northern part; but Mr. Hudson says—between Romsey and Winchester—"I did not know I was in a district where this pretty species is more numerous than any other place in England."

In the northern woodlands it is probably overlooked, for it has not been noted so frequently here as in other districts of the county.

[*Emberiza hortulana*. Ortolan Bunting.]

The late Henry Rogers reported a specimen from Freshwater, in the Isle of Wight, on August 17th, 1867 ("Zoologist," 1867), but we do not think the evidence is sufficiently strong.]

86. *Emberiza schoeniclus*. Reed-Bunting.

SPEAR-SPARROW. BLACK-HEADED BUNTING.

REED-SPARROW.

A resident, and fairly plentiful in all suitable localities on the mainland of the county and in the Isle of Wight.

GENUS—*Calcarius*.**87. *Calcarius lapponicus*. Lapland Bunting.**

A rare occasional visitor.

There are two in the collection of Hart at Christchurch, from that neighbourhood, one procured after a great snow-storm on March 13th, 1891, and the other on October 2nd, 1893.

It inhabits the northern parts of Europe, Asia, and America.

Not included in Kelsall's original list.

GENUS—*Plectrophanes*.**88. *Plectrophanes nivalis*. Snow-Bunting.**

A winter visitor, usually to the coast of the mainland, less frequently to the Isle of Wight, and still more rarely to our inland districts.

Arriving in October and departing in March or April.

Gilbert White remarks ¹ that "a shepherd saw, as he thought, some white larks on a down above my house this winter; were not these the snow-flake, the *Emberiza nivalis* of the British Zoology? No doubt they were."

Later ² he calls it the "greater brambling or snow-fleck," and places it in his Calendar under the date January 9th.

Bell entered it in his list, on the authority of J. Curtis, as having occurred at Farringdon.

¹ Letter xv. to Pennant. Selborne. March 30th, 1768.

² Letter xxvi. to Pennant. Selborne. December 8th, 1769.

[FAMILY—*Icteridæ*.

GENUS—*Agelæus*.

Agelæus phœnicus. Red-winged Starling.

W. Jesse wrote in the "Zoologist" of 1865, that a male specimen was seen at Liphook for about a fortnight in May of that year. But we do not consider the evidence sufficient to admit the species as a genuine visitor to the county.]

FAMILY—*Sturnidæ*.

GENUS—*Sturnus*.

89. *Sturnus vulgaris*. Starling.

An abundant resident in all parts.

Hadfield wrote to the "Zoologist" in 1889 that the starling was rarely met with in the Undercliff sixty years previously. Bury, writing in Adams' "History of the Isle of Wight," about the year 1856, says that sixty years before he wrote it was unknown in the island, and adds that "several persons have testified to it being a rare bird thirty years back."

Mr. O. V. Aplin, writing in 1886, says that "a middle-aged resident told him that his father remembered a time when there was not one in the island." A similar increase of range is recorded by the author of the "Birds of Devon."

White mentions the bird casually,¹ and implies that they were common in his neighbourhood. Nor can they have been winter visitors only, since he does not include them in his "Winter Birds of Passage."

On more than one occasion Hawker "stormed the armies of starlings that roosted in the reeds on Alresford Pond"²

We have a record of their occurrence as migrants at the Needles Lighthouse on October 28th, 1892, when they were noticed flying round the light during the whole night.

GENUS—*Pastor*.

90. *Pastor roseus*. Rose-coloured Pastor.

A rare occasional visitor in spring and summer.

The following occurrences are on record :—

A male at Purewell, near Christchurch, in 1841. (Hart collection.)

One near Sea View, in the Isle of Wight, May, 1855, formerly in the possession of the Ryde Philosophical Society. (More.)

One at Headon Hill, near Alum Bay, in the spring of 1858. (More.)

A male near Christchurch on July 8th, 1862. (Hart collection.)

One at Fordingbridge, in July, 1876. (Corbin.)

One at West Cowes, in the same month. (Hadfield.)

¹ Letters xi. and xlii. to Barrington. Selborne. February 8th, 1772, and August 7th, 1778.

² "Diary of Colonel Peter Hawker."

One at Greatham, near Liss, May 4th, 1896. (Bucknill, "Zoologist." October, 1896.)

There is also a specimen in Lord Malmesbury's collection at Heron Court, from the county, but the date is not known.

Mr. V. Willett, of Strathwell in the Isle of Wight, has a specimen in his collection which was procured in the island, and might possibly be one of those referred to above.

This bird is a native of Western Asia and South-eastern Europe.

FAMILY—*Corvidæ*.

GENUS—*Pyrrhocorax*.

91. *Pyrrhocorax graculus*. Chough.

Formerly resident in the cliffs of the Isle of Wight; now no longer found there.

Yarrell himself saw it on the Freshwater Cliffs.

Bury, writing to the "Zoologist" in 1844, says that there were one or two pairs at Freshwater, and two pairs between Niton and Blackgang.

More, writing about 1860, says that for two years past the chough has not been known to breed at Freshwater, but "a pair or two are still said to linger in the neighbourhood of Blackgang. As it is, the chough is already extinct in Sussex, and the time is perhaps not far distant when it will disappear from our cliffs as well."

About the year 1861, Wise wrote that they were seldom seen on the coast of the New Forest.

Three were seen in the Island in 1869. (Hadfield. "Zoologist.")

In January, 1871, three were shot in Christchurch Harbour, two by Hart and one by Robert Keynes (Hart collection).

Hadfield writing to the "Zoologist" in 1883, records that they were twice seen at Freshwater in the summer of the previous year.

It is to be feared that the large number of jackdaws now inhabiting the Island cliffs will prevent the return of the chough to its former haunts.

GENUS—*Nucifraga*.

92. *Nucifraga caryocatactes*. Nutcracker.

A rare accidental visitor.

A male, shot on November 6th, 1868, in Pike's Field, Cattern's Hill, Christchurch, is in the Hart collection.

The late Mr. A. G. Renshaw wrote as follows to the "Zoologist" in April, 1886: "On February 8th, at Exbury, in Hampshire, on the skirts of the New Forest, I saw a nutcracker, *Nucifraga caryocatactes*. It was close to the house where I was staying, and I recognised the note (with which one gets very familiar in Switzerland and the Alps generally) as I lay in bed. I got up at once, and saw my friend busy amongst the cones of a large fir-tree near the windows of my room. Perhaps the bird is commoner in this country than I suppose, but I never saw or heard one here before."

This bird inhabits the Northern and mountainous parts of Europe and Asia.

GENUS—*Garrulus*.93. *Garrulus glandarius*. **Jay.**

JAY-BIRD.

A common resident in all wooded parts of the mainland and the Isle of Wight; particularly abundant in some of the larger woods.

Mr. Corbin wrote in the "Zoologist," in 1902, to record a remarkable immigration of this species which he had observed since the beginning of October in that year, both in the New Forest and the woods to the west of the Avon. One keeper boasted that he had killed more in one day, about the middle of October, than he had seen for a couple of years previously, and one or two peregrines were observed to be preying upon them.

GENUS—*Pica*.94. *Pica rustica*. **Magpie.**

A fairly common resident throughout the mainland and the Isle of Wight, but very much shot down by game preservers.

Formerly it was evidently much more plentiful in the Island than it is now, or than it ever was on the mainland, and Bury wrote in 1844 that it "is almost as abundant with us, as I found it on the opposite shores of Normandy, where, I verily believe, it is more plentiful than any other species of bird."

Hadfield noted in the "Zoologist" of 1866, under the date "November, 1865": "Magpie. Is now to be met with in flocks."

Mr. Poole remarks that it is now common, though much persecuted in the island; there are several pairs on Shanklin Downs, but they seldom are able to rear their young.

Gilbert White¹ has remarked on their flight—they "flutter with powerless wings, and make no despatch."

GENUS—*Corvus*.

95. *Corvus monedula*. Jackdaw.

" . . . remembering her old ruin'd hall,
And all the windy clamour of the daws
About the hollow turret . . . "

Tennyson's "Geraint and Enid."

A common resident in all parts.

Most plentiful near habitations; it has of late years increased so much that it has displaced, during the nesting-season, many rarer birds. The chough and the sheldrake have, no doubt, in many instances, been driven from their nesting holes on the coast by this bird; and inland it constantly disputes with owls and stockdoves for the possession of hollow trees.

It also frequently nests in the rabbit burrows among the roots of old trees, every hole of which in the trunk and branches may be also occupied by others of its

¹ Letter xlii. to Barrington. Selborne. August 7th, 1778.

kind—it even occasionally builds an open nest among the branches of some thick tree.

Dr. Sclater¹ notes that a considerable colony nests in the holes of the large chalk pit at Odiham.

96. *Corvus corone*. Carrion-Crow.

A resident, sparingly distributed in all the districts of the mainland, but more plentiful in the Isle of Wight.

It is in our county solitary during the nesting-season, but more gregarious at other times.

Gilbert White only casually remarks on the species, but mentions the fact of a pair of sparrow-hawks having bred in an old crow's nest in Selborne Hanger.²

97. *Corvus cornix*. Hooded Crow.

GREY CROW. ROYSTON CROW.

A winter visitor.

It is of regular and fairly common occurrence on all our coasts, but occurs only sparingly and occasionally in some inland localities.

Gilbert White includes this species in his list of "Winter Birds of Passage" under the name of "Royston Crow," remarking that it is "most frequent on downs." In travelling home once from Wiltshire he did not observe any until he came about Andover.³

¹ "Hants Court Guide."

² Letter xliii. to Pennant.

³ "Life of White." Vol. I., p. 175.

In the New Forest they hang about large kennels; and the heaps of refuse near the Fareham Asylum are also a favourite hunting-ground. Corbin noticed an unusual abundance of this species in the New Forest in the winter of 1881-2.¹ Mr. Witherby has noted one at Burley, which often remains the whole winter there; it arrived in 1902, as early as August 25th, and remained as late as May 14th in 1903.

More considered it an uncommon bird in the Isle of Wight.

Dr. Sclater remembers one being shot on the Hackwood Estate, about 1845, which was paired with a carrion-crow.²

98. *Corvus frugilegus*. Rook.

“ Birds in the high hall-garden
When twilight was falling,
Maud, Maud, Maud, Maud,
They were crying and calling.”

Tennyson's "Maud."

A common resident everywhere.

Though most usually rookeries are found in the neighbourhood of houses or in private grounds, they are not infrequently established in woods at a distance from habitations; there is a large one in Sydmonton Beeches on the downs there, another in the woods near Faccombe, and others in various places on the downs of the Central Hill district.

In the woods of the New Forest itself the rook seldom or never nests; a colony took up its abode at Rowhill

¹ “Zoologist.” 1882. ² “Hants Court Guide.”

Bushes in 1902, much to the astonishment of the oldest inhabitant.

In the Isle of Wight none of the rookeries are of any size, though there are numerous small ones.

The observation of the rooks at Selborne, particularly during the nesting season, greatly interested Gilbert White, and the first "twig-bearing rook" of the year was duly noted in his Diary.

According to Jesse, the unpublished papers of White mention a nest with young in it on November 26th (Yarrell).

In Letter xliii. to Barrington,¹ White wrote: "Rooks in the breeding season attempt sometimes, in the gaiety of their hearts, to sing, but with no great success." And again he truly describes their return to roost in autumn²: "Just before dark they return in long strings from the foraging of the day, and rendezvous by thousands over Selborne Down, where they wheel round in the air, and sport and dive in playful manner, all the while exerting their voices and making a loud cawing, which, being blended and softened by the distance that we at the village are below them, becomes a confused noise or chiding, or rather a pleasing murmur, very engaging to the imagination, and not unlike the cry of a pack of hounds in hollow, echoing woods, or the rushing of the wind in tall trees, or the tumbling of the tide upon a pebbly shore.

"When this ceremony is over, with the last gleam of day, they retire for the night to the deep beechen woods of Tisted and Ropley."

Among his meteorological observations he records that a number of rooks were caught in a lane near Hackwood

¹ Selborne. September 9th, 1778.

² Letter lix. to Barrington.

Park, which, attempting to fly, fell from the trees with their wings frozen together by the sleet, which froze as it fell.

99. *Corvus corax.* **Raven.**

“Till in the cold wind that foreruns the morn,
A blot in heaven, the Raven, flying high,
Croak’d, and she thought, ‘He spies a field of death.’”

Tennyson’s “Guinevere.”

A scarce resident, now confined to the Isle of Wight.

On the strength of two pairs still nesting in the Isle of Wight—one pair on the Culver Cliffs occasionally, and the other pair regularly on the Freshwater Cliffs—this bird may still claim a place among our residents, but it appears to be quite extinct as a nesting species on the mainland, though occurring occasionally in all parts, chiefly in winter. Within the last half century resident pairs were found in several localities throughout Hampshire, but they kept the district around their nesting-places so completely under their domination—hardly any small living creature being allowed to exist in the immediate vicinity—that it is not surprising that they themselves eventually succumbed to a still more powerful destroyer, who had an interest in preserving their victims.

We think of them now with a kind of sentimental regret, but we cannot deny that they were bold and cruel marauders, with everyone’s hand against them, except so far as they lived under the immediate protection of private domains.

The raven has the honour of being the first bird mentioned by Gilbert White, and the famous passage in his

second letter to Pennant has doubtless served to allure many a young naturalist over the somewhat barren wilderness of the opening chapters.

"On the Blackmoor estate," he says, "there is a small wood, called Losel's, of a few acres, that was lately furnished with a set of oaks of a peculiar growth and great value; they were tall and taper, like firs, but standing near together, had very small heads, only a little brush, without any large limbs.

"About twenty years ago the bridge at the Toy, near Hampton Court, being much decayed, some trees were wanted for repairs that were fifty feet long without a bough, and would measure twelve inches diameter at the little end. Twenty such trees did a purveyor find in this little wood, with this advantage, that many of them answered the description at sixty feet. These trees were sold for twenty pounds apiece.

"In the centre of this grove there stood an oak, which, though shapely and tall on the whole, bulged out with a large excrescence about the middle of the stem. On this a pair of ravens had fixed their residence for such a series of years that the oak was distinguished by the title of the Raven Tree. Many were the attempts of the neighbouring youths to get at this eyry: the difficulty whetted their inclinations, and each was ambitious of surmounting the arduous task. But, when they arrived at the swelling, it jutted out so in their way, and was so far beyond their grasp, that the most daring lads were awed, and acknowledged the undertaking to be too hazardous. So the ravens built on, nest upon nest, in perfect security, till the fatal day arrived in which the wood was to be levelled. It was in the month of February, when those birds usually sit. The saw was applied to the butt, the wedges were inserted

into the opening, the woods echoed to the heavy blows of the beetle or mallet, the tree nodded to its fall; but still the dam sat on. At last, when it gave way, the bird was flung from her nest; and, though her parental affection deserved a better fate, was whipped down by the twigs, which brought her dead to the ground."

Again, when writing ¹ on the flight of birds, no doubt from observation, he says: "There is a peculiarity belonging to ravens that must draw the attention even of the most incurious—they spend all their leisure time in striking or cuffing each other on the wing in a kind of playful skirmish; and when they move from one place to another, frequently turn on their backs with a loud croak, and seem to be falling to the ground. When this odd gesture betides them, they are scratching themselves with one foot, and thus lose the centre of gravity."

In the following letter,² on the notes and language of birds, he writes that "ravens, beside their loud croak, can exert a deep and solemn note that makes the woods echo."

The Calendar records that ravens build February 14th to 17th, and sit about March 17th.

In the second series of Jesse's "Gleanings" it is said that White recorded, one 24th of October, "a flock of forty-six ravens over the hanger," which must have been an unusual occurrence even in those days; but in his MS. Journal there are several references to "flocks" and "vast flocks" of ravens.

In the Isle of Wight—at the time of the publication of Adams' Guide (1856)—there were several pairs nesting along the south coast, and More, writing in 1860, says that they "build regularly in many parts."

¹ Letter xlii. to Barrington. Selborne. August 7th, 1778.

² Letter xliii. to Barrington. Selborne. September 9th, 1778.

In 1865 Hadfield wrote¹ that a solitary pair bred in the high cliffs between Luccombe and Shanklin Chine till within the last year or two, and that the young in July were full fledged.

In the Forest, in Wise's time, the raven used to build in the old woods round Burley, and the last two nests were taken in 1858. "Another of its breeding places was in Puckpits, where, however, it has not built for the last four seasons. Formerly the bird was common enough, as the different Ravensnest Woods still show; and old men in the forest have told me, in direct opposition, however, to what Yarrell says, that when, as boys, taking its eggs, they were obliged to arm themselves with stones and sticks to drive off the parent birds, who fiercely defended their nests with their claws and bills. Now it is nearly extinct, though a pair may sometimes be seen wherever there is a dead horse or cow in the district."² However, with regard to the defence of their nests against man, Yarrell is certainly the more correct authority.

In Kelsall's list³ it is stated on the authority of Messrs. Hart and Rake, that two pairs still nested there, but this information, though given in good faith, had probably ceased to be true before it was published; and the Hon. Gerald Lascelles informs us that none have nested there in his time, that is, since 1880, nor has he been able to hear that they did so for many years previously. Those that haunt the forest seem generally to come from the Freshwater Cliffs.

During the last half century several inland nesting-places of this species have been forsaken by the birds,

¹ "Zoologist."

² "The New Forest," by J. R. Wise. 1862.

³ Published in 1890.

nor, as far as we can learn, has any attempt been made to re-introduce them.

A pair nested in Ball's Coppice, at Old Basing, on the Hackwood Estate, but Mr. Raynbird writes that this was about fifty years ago; two specimens now in the Alton Museum represent this pair.

In Rooksbury Park, near Wickham—Mr. J. Carpenter-Garnier tells us—they nested in the Fir Copse until about forty years ago, and Mr. Knight, of Wickham, says that they reared a brood of four young ones there in two successive years, but the young were constantly taken.

Another pair bred annually in the Tangle Clumps, above Hurstbourne Tarrant,—three desolate groups of gaunt Scotch firs, high up on the summit of a bare down on the north-western edge of the county, buttressed on the northern side by juniper-sprinkled hills; sloping away to the south over a limitless expanse of wood, downland and pasture, the view embracing lofty Salisbury spire, and stretching even to the Solent; to the west a stretch of country bounded by the high table-land of Salisbury Plain; while on the east the naked eye can see far beyond the county's limits.

In such a situation the birds nested until 1866, and Mr. G. Orby Sloper, who formerly lived at West Woodhay, tells us that they were driven away in that year, by the limb on which the nest was built having been sawn off in order to get at the nest with the young birds. He often watched them chasing and taking larks, in which they seldom failed, and the only bird that was their equal was the cock peewit, which always successfully protected its eggs from them.

Of this same pair, Mr. J. F. Child, of Farnborough, well remembers them croaking over the valley in the

lambling-season, having the sky all to themselves, and a young one taken from the nest was a pet of the Bishop of Salisbury.

The Rev. A. C. Smith includes this nest among the Wiltshire nesting-places of this bird, in his "Birds of Wiltshire," and relates that "on one occasion when one of the old birds was shot, at the time there were young birds in the nest, the other parent-bird disappeared for about three hours and returned with another mate, who helped to bring up the brood. This was told to Mr. W. H. Fowle, of Chute Forest, by a man who himself witnessed it. The young birds were frequently taken from this nest, but this never caused the old birds to forsake, for they invariably returned year after year."

Another pair nested just within the western border of the county, in a clump of Scotch firs in a hollow of the down, within a short distance of the "Mizmaze," near Whitsbury. Mr. Westlake, of Redlynch, climbed to this nest on February 27th, 1872 (Thanksgiving Day), and found it empty, but about three weeks later some eggs were taken from the nest by another person. The spot was well known as the ravens' nesting-place, they having nested for many years previously, but not regularly.

Dr. Rake, of Fordingbridge, has in his collection four eggs taken from this nest on March 7th, 1873, six eggs being in the nest at the time, and this is the latest date the birds nested there, for they shortly afterwards forsook the spot, and took up their quarters in Clearbury Ring, just across the border, in Wiltshire.

This was probably the nest reported by Dr. Rake to Kelsall.

For years another pair nested at Longwood, near Winchester, the last nest being built there about 1884.

In Avington Park, near Alresford, a pair bred annually until about 1885, in a clump of Scotch firs called the "Ravens' Clump," and of these Hudson writes: ¹ "Between 1840 and 1850—one year, six nestlings were taken from this nest and reared, but were eventually all killed by the pair of old birds, which resented the presence of these young birds in their territory."

The very last inland nesting pair of which we can gain any information was that which bred in Ashdown Copse at South Tedworth, which the Rev. A. C. Smith also includes among his Wiltshire nesting-places. This nest was occupied until 1887, and the Rev. H. E. Delmé-Radcliffe tells us that on the disappearance of one of the old birds, it probably having been shot, the other never returned, and there have never been any since. He once had a young one which fell from the nest; "the old birds could not tolerate its presence in my garden, about half a mile from their quarters, and used to come down and attack it furiously in the early morning when no one was about."

We cannot assign a reason for the disappearance of this species—some alterations in the surroundings of their abode only known to themselves might be possible—certainly neither the taking of their eggs nor young seems to affect them as a rule.

There are some other places in the county (such as Hawker's Hill, near Romsey) which have the reputation of having harboured this bird, but at such remote times that no data are possible.

Mr. J. H. Willmore, of Queenwood College, Stockbridge, informed Kelsall that there was a nest on the Andover Road until about the year 1877.

¹ "Animal Life." Vol. I.

Mr. G. A. B. Dewar, in his "Hampshire Highlands," gives the following extracts from the diary of the Rev. Henry White, who was Rector of Fyfield, and brother of Gilbert White :—

"1781. April 19th: Boys went to Abbot's Anne Wood, brought home two young ravens nearly fledged."

"1784. 8th October: Ravens and rooks on ye trees warbling."

FAMILY—*Alaudidæ*.

GENUS—*Alda*.

100. *Alda arvensis*. Sky-lark.

"The lark has past from earth to heaven upon the morning breeze!"
Tennyson's "*The Flight*."

A very common resident in all parts.

In winter its numbers are greatly increased by migrants and the late Henry Stevenson, describing a great immigration which arrived on the coast of Norfolk in January, 1881, says that there was a great passage on the very same day at Lyndhurst, all going south-west.¹

101. *Alda arborea*. Wood-lark.

"While high in air, and poised upon his wings,
Unseen, the soft enamour'd woodlark sings."
"*The Naturalist's Summer Evening Walk*."

A resident, of local distribution, both on the mainland and in the Isle of Wight.

¹ "Zoologist." 1883.

Gilbert White seems to have been well-acquainted with the bird, though it is now commonly overlooked by many observers, being often confounded with the tree-pipit. In a footnote to the above quotation he remarks that "on hot summer nights woodlarks soar to a prodigious height, and hang singing in the air."

The bird was also known to another Hampshire poet and lover of birds, if we may assume that Charles Kingsley was recording his own observations, when he writes in the "Charm of Birds": "above the tree-tops, rising, hovering, sinking, the woodlark is fluting, tender and low."

Munn does not consider it a usual habit of this bird to sing at night, any more than it is of the sky-lark, for he has heard the latter singing at that time, though not the former.

Bury considered the bird abundant in the north side of the Isle of Wight, but More calls it "one of our most uncommon birds," though he mentions Bembridge as a locality for the nest.

Wise evidently did not know the bird from observation, but records a nest found by Mr. Rake on Goreley race-course, near Fordingbridge, on the 2nd of April, 1861, with three eggs.

Kelsall has seen it occasionally in the nesting-season in his present parish, but much more commonly in the winter.

Mr. Willmore reported it as nesting near Stockbridge, and Miss Yonge associates it with Otterbourne and Cranbury. Mr. Sutton Davies confirms the reference to Otterbourne.

Bell enters it in his list for Selborne and Alton, on his own authority and that of Mr. Curtis. Colonel Irby has met with it in Wolmer Forest, and Mr. Stares found two nests near Titchfield in 1889.

Round Laverstoke it is not uncommon, also at Overton, Deane, Oakley, and in parts of the northern woodlands; in all these places nests have been found.

It often resorts to the same locality to nest year after year, and the nest may be found in the same spot, or close to where it was built the year before.

The following note by Charles Kingsley lies forgotten in the 1872 volume of "Science Gossip." A certain correspondent having written as if the tree-pipit and *Alauda arborea* were one and the same, Kingsley replies thus: "I do not wish to be too critical, but may I ask your pleasant correspondent . . . which of two very different (and by me long confounded) birds he means by the tree-pipit. The tree-pipit's book name is *Anthus arboreus*, and it is, it seems, the *Alauda trivialis* of Pennant and Montagu.

"The true tree-lark, becoming, alas! scarce in Hampshire, is *Alauda arborea*, of a different sub-genus, being a true lark.

"If killed—which heaven forbid any man should do by them—the two birds may be distinguished thus roughly: The tree-pipit has the longer bill and short hind-claw of the *Anthus*, and spotted stomach; the tree-lark has the shorter bill and long hind-claw of the *Alauda*, and a stomach without spots. It is also a thicker and less grey-coloured bird. The habits of the two when singing on the wing are so alike as to have puzzled me often. The distinction which I should make is, that the tree-pipit in hovering spreads its tail like a fan, and curves its wings downwards, which I have not seen the tree-lark do. The tree-lark certainly sings at night, as described by Mr. Drew, and its song is one of the most exquisite and flute-like I know, far surpassing that of the tree-pipit."

A study of the bird and its habits would repay any

observer, for it is really comparatively little known and has generally been but little observed.

[*Alauda cristata*. Crested Lark.

In the "Zoologist" for 1877 Hadfield asserts that one was captured in the Isle of Wight, but we do not consider the evidence sufficient.]

GENUS—*Calandrella*.

102. *Calandrella brachydactyla*. Short-toed Lark.

A rare accidental visitor.

The Rev. J. Pemberton Bartlett records the first Hampshire specimen in the "Zoologist" of 1862. It was caught by a bird-catcher in the winter of 1861-2 on the borders of the New Forest, near Southampton, and lived in Mr. Bartlett's aviary for some months, until it was accidentally killed.

The same bird-catcher is stated to have captured another ten years before in the same district.

In Dr. A. G. Butler's work on British Birds it is recorded that one caught near Portsmouth was exhibited at the Crystal Palace Bird Show in 1890.

GENUS—*Otocorys*.

103. *Otocorys alpestris*. Shore-Lark.

A rare occasional visitor.

There are two specimens in the Hart collection, obtained near Christchurch on October 21st, 1875.

It is a native of the northern part of Europe, Asia, and America.

ORDER—PICARÆ.

FAMILY—*Cypselidæ*.

GENUS—*Cypselus*.

104. *Cypselus apus*. Swift.

SQUEAKER. SCREECHER. SCREAMING DEVIL.

“To mark the swift in rapid giddy ring,
Dash round the steeple, unsubdued of wing :
Amusive birds ! say where your hid retreat
When the frost rages and the tempests beat !
Whence your return, by such nice instinct led,
When Spring, soft season, lifts her bloomy head ?
Such baffled searches mock man’s prying pride,
The God of Nature is your secret guide !”

“*The Naturalist’s Summer Evening Walk.*”

A summer visitor to all parts of the county and Isle of Wight, arriving in May, and departing in August.

In common with all the swallow tribe, this bird was a favourite with White, and is the subject of many of

his notes. Indeed, his so-called twenty-first Letter to Barrington, dated September, 1774, is by far the best history of its habits ever published in our language, and has formed the nucleus of all subsequent histories.

In the course of this chapter he remarks that he remembers "but one instance where they breed out of buildings; and that is in the sides of a deep chalk-pit near the town of Odiham, in this county, where we have seen many pairs entering the crevices, and skimming and squeaking round the precipices."

It is interesting to note that they still nest in the same pit.

Among the remarkable facts that he noted are its habit of arriving in pairs, and copulating on the wing. Also the rapid deterioration of its plumage when in this country, and the speedy transformation of the squab-young, "helpless, naked and unwieldy," into birds of such powerful flight.

He apparently did not note them collecting materials for their nests—stray feathers dropped from passing birds, and particularly the blossoms of the elm—which they often catch in their mouths as they are blown from the trees.

His last paragraph touches upon a profound subject in these words:—"So soon does Nature advance small birds to their *ἡλικία*, or state of perfection; while the progressive growth of men and large quadrupeds is slow and tedious."

A rare variety of the swift, with a white breast, is in the Hart collection, and was erroneously recorded by Wise as a "white-bellied swift."

The swift may frequently be seen flying over the New Forest woods, far from any nesting-colony.

105. *Cypselus melba*. White-bellied Swift.

A rare accidental visitor.

The only Hampshire specimens are recorded in the following note, communicated by Dr. James Salter to the "Field" of May 15th, 1886 :—

"On the twenty-eighth of April I saw two specimens of this rare visitant (*Cypselus melba*) flying over a pond about a mile east of Basingstoke. I first saw them from a distance, and was attracted by their enormous expanse of wing. The swallows flying near them looked mere pigmies.

"Upon going to the edge of the pond, I was able to examine their plumage very clearly. They were quite fearless, and came near to where I was standing. There could be no doubt about the species.

"Their flight was very gentle and peculiarly graceful. They were occupied in picking insects off the surface of the water, and this they accomplished by a series of short, slow, curving stoops of a few yards, made very deliberately."

It will be noted that these birds were travelling in a pair, like the common swift, as observed by White.

The record in Wise's "New Forest" is a mistake (see under "Common Swift").

It is a native of Southern and Central Europe, North Africa, and as far East as India. In winter it visits Cape Colony.

GENUS—*Acanthyllis*.**106. *Acanthyllis caudacuta*. Needle-tailed Swift.**

A very rare accidental visitor.

On July 26th or 27th, 1879, a specimen was obtained near Ringwood, by Mr. Corbin, which had been seen flying with a companion over the River Avon for a few days before. It was exhibited by Professor Newton at a meeting of the Zoological Society. The specimen is still in Mr. Corbin's possession. It will be observed that these birds also, like the last mentioned, were travelling two by two.

The species inhabits Eastern Asia, and only one other specimen has ever been met with in Europe.

FAMILY—*Caprimulgidæ*.GENUS—*Caprimulgus*.**107. *Caprimulgus europæus*. Night-jar.**

NIGHT-HAWK. GOAT-SUCKER. FERN-OWL. CHURN-OWL
EVE-JAR. PUCKERIDGE.

"While o'er the cliff th' awakened churn-owl hung,
Through the still gloom protracts his chattering song."

"*Naturalist's Summer Evening Walk.*"

A regular summer visitor to all parts of the county and the Isle of Wight, arriving in May and departing in September.

This "amusing" bird was a great favourite with Gilbert White, who alludes to the various names given to it by his neighbours—"fern-owl," "churn-owl," "eve-jar," "pucke-

ridge"—names, by-the-bye, which we seldom hear it called by now. But his fullest history of it was not published in the first edition of his work, but collected from his unpublished papers and added to later editions among the Miscellaneous Observations.

The only dates mentioned in these observations on this bird are subsequent to the publication of the "History of Selborne"; and, in a letter to Churton, preserved in Bell's edition, and dated September 1st, 1789, he remarks that he has just found that the country people consider the bird injurious to weanling calves, and so forth.

Writing to Marsham in 1790, he remarks that they have been less common since the long and severe winter of 1788, and asks: is not this a presumptive proof of their torpidity?

Again to the same correspondent, in December, 1791, he says: "I have thought of sending a paper to the Royal Society, respecting the fern-owl; and seem to think that I can advance some particulars concerning that peculiar, migratory, nocturnal bird, that have never been noticed before."

In his original letter to Pennant (xxii.) he corrected his correspondent's extraordinary statement that the jarring was caused by the resistance of the air against the bird's mouth and throat; but when he published the letter he omitted the correction, with his usual courtesy.

In the same letter he remarks, as an instance of the bird's punctuality, that he has more than once known it to "strike up just at the report of the Portsmouth evening gun."

In his comment on this letter, Bell noted that the night-jar was less common at Selborne than it was some years before; but all ornithologists know that the summer migrants are as subject to considerable fluctuations in

their numbers, as might be expected from the numerous dangers of their voyages.

The earliest date in the Calendar for this bird's appearance is May 1st.

Hadfield met with this bird in the island in February, 1860,¹ and the record is to some extent corroborated by the fact that it has been met with in winter both in Devon and Cornwall.

Dr. Cowper² notes that "one frequently disturbs one or two together while out partridge shooting in September" in the island; and we would suppose that the birds were then migrating, or just about to depart.

One was observed on the rocks at the Needles Lighthouse on June 10th, 1902, and had probably just arrived.

Mr. Corbin, having shot two specimens on July 31st, 1866, was proceeding to stuff them on the following evening, when he was surprised to notice the size of the crop of the first which he skinned. Having cut it open, two moths flew out, and several others crawled out. Having secured the fliers, he examined the contents of the first crop, and found eleven antler moths, one yellow underwing, three *Selasellus* and five *Culmellus*. The crop of the other bird produced one dung-beetle and one antler moth.³

Generally in our county it is most plentiful in the heathy districts, but is also numerous in the oakwoods, where its eggs are laid in the open spaces among the undergrowth of hazel, etc.

Merrett, in his "Pinax rerum naturalium Britannicarum" (1667), noted "*Goatsucker*, hunc cepit Dominus Cole, in agro Hantoniensi, an. 1664, rara admodum avis."

¹ "Zoologist." 1860.

² "Hants Court Guide."

³ "Science Gossip." 1866.

FAMILY—*Picidæ*. SUB-FAMILY—*Picinæ*.

[GENUS—*Picus*.

Picus martius. Great Black Woodpecker.

Though this bird has been several times reported as seen in the county, usually in the New Forest district, and is so remarkable in appearance that it could scarcely be mistaken for any other, we think it cannot be admitted as a genuine visitor on the strength of the evidence at present existing.

The oldest record is that communicated by Bury to the "Zoologist" in 1845, to the effect that Archdeacon Hill had shot one in his garden at Shanklin Parsonage "many years before," but it was identified only from memory, and both More and Hadfield thought the evidence insufficient.

Former editions of Yarrell mentioned a report that two were frequently seen near Christchurch, but this record was rejected by the editor of the fourth edition.

Wise gives a circumstantial account of the discovery of a nest in Pignel Wood, near Brockenhurst, by William Farren in 1862, but the evidence was not considered conclusive by Mr. Gurney and Mr. Howard Saunders when they investigated the matter; the latter saw the eggs and thought they were green woodpecker's, and also conversed with a Mr. Oliver, who was with Farren at the time.

Mr. G. A. B. Dewar writes in his "Hampshire Highlands" (1899) that "among his non-proven records is one relating to no less a bird than the great black woodpecker."

"A keeper whom I questioned some twenty years since respecting uncommon birds he had come across during my absence from home for some months, gave me an account

of a large bird with habits resembling those of the 'yapping-gale,' but with coal-black plumage, relieved by a little red. He had shot the bird in the winter, and kept it for a few days, intending to send it to a bird-stuffer's, but had allowed the opportunity to go by. Considering that not a feather of this *rarissima avis* was forthcoming, I am afraid such a record would not pass muster with the most obliging ornithologist."

When Kelsall was living in Liverpool he met a lady who, having a tale to tell regarding a pair of this species which she saw at Stoney Cross in May, 1889, allowed him to send it to the "Zoologist" for 1893; but we think that these specimens may have been the result of recent importation.

With regard to the more ancient records it must be remembered that the great spotted woodpecker was called *Picus major*, whereas this bird was not called *maximus*, as it might have been.

Some of the recent occurrences may be accounted for by the fact that specimens have been purposely liberated or have escaped.]

GENUS—*Dendrocopus*.

108. *Dendrocopus major*. Great Spotted Woodpecker.

WOODWALL. WOOD-PIE.

Resident in the county; nowhere common, but most numerous in the New Forest district.

In the Isle of Wight it is said to be only of occasional occurrence, and generally in the winter.

Bury writes,¹ it "is now rare, but was less so once. I have seen three or four specimens that were killed a few years back, but the living bird I have not seen or heard."

There is a specimen in Mr. V. Willett's collection procured in the island, November 11th, 1889.

Mr. Wadham says it is extremely rare.

The nest of this species has been recorded from all parts of the mainland, including Hursley, Highclere Park (Aplin), and Wolmer Forest (Irby).

In the big beech woods and in the birch plantations of the New Forest a quiet observer can hardly fail to discover this bird, at least in the summer.

Wise notes that it clings more tenaciously to its nesting holes than the green woodpecker.

109. *Dendrocopus minor*. Lesser Spotted Woodpecker.

A resident throughout the county, but uncommon.

It is certainly more generally distributed and more plentiful than the last-named in most districts, except perhaps in the New Forest.

Its rarity in the Isle of Wight is remarkable, for it is not included in any of the lists of island birds, and the only record we can hear of is that of one being shot at Swainston, in September, 1893, which is reported to us by Mr. Wadham, of Newport.

There is considerable difference of opinion among observers as to whether the greater or the lesser spotted

¹ "Zoologist." 1845.

is the more common, but the smaller bird is much the less conspicuous, and is probably more widely diffused over the cultivated districts in the county.

This species has nested for some years in a dead tree trunk, in Munn's garden at Laverstoke, about five feet from the ground, and nine yards from the garden door of the house. They first nested in the garden in 1883, and nearly every year until 1903.

The Rev. G. M. A. Hewett has given us a lively account, in his "Open Air Boy," of a pair that nested in his garden at Winchester.

GENUS—*Gecinns*.

110. *Gecinns viridis*. **Green Woodpecker.**

YAFFINGALE. YAFFLE. WOODNACKER.

" . . . I am woodman of the woods,
And hear the garnet-headed yaffingale
Mock them . . ."

Tennyson's "Last Tournament."

A common resident in all parts of the county. Numerous in some of the larger woods and in private domains, and especially plentiful in the New Forest.

In the Isle of Wight it is very rare, and Bury says¹ it "is with us '*rarissima avis*.' R. Loe has seen it once, and that is the only well-authenticated instance of its occurrence that I have heard of."

In April, 1865, Hadfield noted² that one had been occasionally observed of late near Luccombe.

¹ "Zoologist." 1845.

² "Zoologist." 1865.

Mr. Wadham records one shot at Wootton, in the Isle of Wight, about six years ago.

The little White says about this bird is much to the point: "They fly *volatu undoso*, opening and closing their wings at every stroke, and so are always rising or falling in curves." And again: "The woodpecker sets up a sort of loud and hearty laugh."

In a letter to Marsham, dated 1792, he asks, "Pray, do woodpeckers ever damage and bore your timber trees? . . . I had a brood this year in my outlet, hatched, I suspect, in the bodies of some old willows."

He does not, however, mention the species of woodpecker severally.

GENUS—*Iynx*.

111. *Iynx torquilla*. Wryneck.

CUCKOO'S MATE. BARLEY BIRD. WEET BIRD.

LITTLE ETEN BIRD. RINDING BIRD. SNAKE BIRD.

A summer visitor to all parts of the county and the Isle of Wight, arriving early in April and departing in September.

It is not an equally common bird in all parts, but is perhaps most plentiful along the south coast and in the island.

Bury considered this a common bird in the Isle of Wight, and mentions that he knew of a pair that reared their brood for years successively in a hole in one of the uprights of a rustic cottage.¹ It has also accepted the hospitality

¹ "Zoologist." 1845.

of nesting-boxes at Boldre, Milton, Avon Tyrrell, and elsewhere in the county.

The box in which it built at Milton was about nine inches square, stoutly constructed, covered with virgin-cork, and entered by a hole $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter. It was placed on the north side of a sycamore, about seven feet from the ground, and was furnished, by Mr. Stares' advice, with a little sawdust.

Mr. W. T. Pearce informs us that it nests in the earth-works at Stokes Bay.

There has been some difference of opinion as to the occasional arrival of the bird as early as March. White gives March 5th as the earliest date, and places it second to the chiffchaff only in his list of summer visitors.

Mr. Meade-Waldo writes that it often arrives by the end of that month, and Dr. Arnold says that he saw one and heard another at Emsworth on March 19th, 1903, and heard it again on the very same spot on March 25th, 1904. There could be no more favourable spot than Emsworth on the mainland for catching the migrants on their first arrival.

Wise also gives "about the end of March and beginning of April."

Miss Ethel Chawner says that the New Forest woodmen call it the "rinding bird," because it appears when the bark-strippers are at work. The name is given also by the authors of the *Birds of Sussex* and of *Surrey*.

The name "barley bird" is shared with others which make themselves conspicuous at the same season.

Miss Yonge has said that the wryneck is "so hard to see, because it always keeps on the side of the tree opposite to the spectator, or rather, non-spectator;" but we think it more probable that the bird's protective

colouring, stiff attitude, and somewhat ventriloquial voice deceived the non-spectator. In "John Keble's Parishes" she says, "the cuckoo's mate squeaks all round the woods, with his head on one side, just as the cuckoo comes."

Wise¹ mentions that Dr. Rake both heard and saw one as late as December 5th, 1861.

Mr. Victor Willett procured a specimen from St. Catherine's Lighthouse, in the Isle of Wight, on August 19th, 1892.

FAMILY—*Alcedinidæ*.

GENUS—*Alcedo*.

112. *Alcedo ispida*. Kingfisher.

. "a halcyon sits
Patient—the secret splendour of the brooks."

Tennyson's "Progress of Spring."

Resident and universally distributed throughout the county and the Isle of Wight.

There are few reaches of the Avon, Test, and Itchin that are without their pair of kingfishers, nor are they absent from the smaller streams of the New Forest, nesting in the banks of the more secluded parts of their course. On the Upper Test they may be called plentiful, though never more than one pair is found on one stretch of the stream, each pair keeping to its own territory, conscious that the supply of food there is not sufficient for more than themselves.

They often nest in chalk-pits, and gravel or sand-pits at a distance from water, but their favourite situation is in the bank overhanging a stream, the same situation being resorted to annually for nesting.

¹ "New Forest."

The eggs are usually laid in the middle of April, though an instance is known of the young having flown from the nest by this time ; and it is remarkable that such a brilliant bird should endure such a foul nesting-hole, or that the young ones can manage to keep themselves clean in such unsavoury surroundings.

White's only allusion to this bird is in the chapter on the flight of birds¹: "The kingfisher," he says, "darts along like an arrow."

More says that only a few pairs remain in the island during the summer, and in the winter hardly any are noticed, but they are sometimes plentiful in the autumn, when it is not unusual to see them fishing in the rock-pools along the shore.

At Bembridge they have frequently been observed to station themselves at the furthest extremity of a ledge of rocks left bare at low water, and when the wind was blowing off shore they might be found sitting upon the seaweed, watching for their prey, or hovering over the salt water. He adds that he has more than once noticed a kingfisher, when repeatedly flushed, fly up into the top of a high elm, and he gives the authority of Rogers for saying that at Freshwater the birds sometimes nest in fissures in the caves.

Our experience on the coast of the mainland agrees with More's, that autumn is the season when the bird is most to be seen.

We do not consider that this bird is much persecuted, or decreasing in Hampshire at present, for though the fishing is so strictly preserved on most of the streams, the owners generally like the kingfishers as well, and the only

¹ Letter xlii. to Barrington. Selborne. August 7th, 1778.

places where they are likely to do any harm is in fish hatcheries, where naturally they would not be tolerated.

FAMILY—*Coraciidæ*.

GENUS—*Coracias*.

113. *Coracias garrula*. Roller.

A rare accidental visitor from Central, Southern, and Eastern Europe.

The Hart collection contains a male, shot in July, 1874 at Allenworth Hinton, near Christchurch.

Mr. A. Brooke-Leeds told Kelsall of a specimen killed at Nunwell, near Brading, in 1881.

Mr. O. V. Aplin, the author of the "Birds of Oxfordshire," writes in the "Zoologist" of 1887 that he saw an example which was shot in the island in the summer of 1886. It was obtained near Sandown.

There is also a Hampshire specimen in the Earl of Malmesbury's collection at Heron Court.

Mr. Corbin has informed us, and also sent a note to the "Zoologist" to the same effect, that one was seen on several occasions in July, 1904, on an estate near Ringwood, where it evidently enjoyed the protection it deserved, as there was no news of its having been killed.

FAMILY—*Meropidæ*.GENUS—*Merops*.**114. *Merops apiaster*. Bee-eater.**

A rare accidental visitor from Southern Europe and North Africa.

More records one killed at Headon Hill Warren, near Freshwater, in June, 1885.

The Hart collection contains a male shot at Christchurch on May 21st, 1888.

There is also a specimen from the county in Lord Malmesbury's collection at Heron Court; and Mr. Hart informs us of two others obtained in the New Forest district, besides one seen at Holdenhurst in June, 1903.

FAMILY—*Upupidæ*.GENUS—*Upupa*.**115. *Upupa epops*. Hoopoe.**

A scarce summer visitor of irregular appearance, rarely nesting in the county.

This beautiful bird, remarkable for its tame and confiding habits, deserves the most strenuous protection; indeed, one is tempted to suggest that specimens might be turned out at a suitable season.

There is no doubt that they would nest regularly in the county if allowed to do so.

Our first record is from the "Pinax rerum naturalium Britannicarum" of Merrett, published in 1667, which mentions its occurrence in the New Forest, "*sed raro invenitur.*"

The well-known paragraph in White's Letter xi. to Pennant is dated just a hundred years later (September 9th, 1767); "The most unusual birds I ever observed in these parts were a pair of hoopoes (*Upupa*) which came, several years ago, in the summer, and frequented an ornamental piece of ground, which joins to my garden, for some weeks. They used to march about in a stately manner, feeding in the walks, many times in the day, and seemed disposed to breed in my outlet, but were frightened and persecuted by idle boys, who would never let them be at rest."

The pair mentioned by Montagu and Latham as having begun a nest in Hampshire are supposed to be the same historic couple.

Hadfield wrote to the "Zoologist" in 1879 that a hoopoe was shot by his father (the first recorded instance of its occurrence in the island), sixty-five years previously, at Bonchurch, and might then be seen at the British Museum.

Bury¹ records "April 12th, 1839, one shot at Westbrooke, near Ryde. Three have been obtained by Mr. Butler, of Yarmouth. One is preserved at Thorley Farm, killed two or three years back by the tenant, Mr. Gibbs. August 1st, 1843, one shot at in Bordwood Forest, which remained in the neighbourhood for several days. April 15th, 1844, one seen by myself at Bonchurch and shot the next day."

In the appendix to the "Letters of Rusticus" one is

¹ "Zoologist." 1845.

mentioned as having been shot near Liphook, on April 22nd, 1845.

Professor Bell relates in a footnote in his edition of White's *Selborne*, that when driving towards Alton on May 3rd, 1853, just on entering the parish of Hartley Maudyitt, a hoopoe rose from behind a hedge on his right came over into the road, and continued its flight before his ponies' heads for about fifty yards. From the time of year he thought it probably had a mate.

More writes in 1860, that it is not of unfrequent occurrence in the Isle of Wight in spring and autumn, and scarcely a year passes without one or more being obtained.

Wise says: "Throughout the summer of 1861, a pair were constantly flying about and hopping on the "Lawn" near Wilverley Forest Lodge in the New Forest.

Rogers recorded a "fine pair" from Freshwater in May, 1867,¹ and the Rev. A. P. Morres a male shot at Breamore, in May, 1869.

Mr. J. Weaver contributed the following note to Prebendary Gordon's "History of Harting" in 1877. "We can state on our own authority that an individual of this species in immature plumage was obtained not many years since on Petersfield Heath, from which we infer that it occasionally breeds in the neighbourhood."

Mr. George Careless records one killed at Spring Vale, in the Isle of Wight, on August 20th, 1878, and adds "this is the third that has been obtained here within the last ten or twelve years."²

The Hart collection contains local specimens dated August 14th, and September 2nd, 1878, and the Rev. N. Carrow records one seen at Dummer Rectory in May, 1880.³

¹ "Zoologist." 1867. ² "Zoologist." 1878. ³ "Zoologist." 1880

Hadfield reports two from Freshwater in May, 1883,¹ and Mr. W. T. Pearce records one from Stokes Bay, in October, 1884.

Hart has two eggs in his collection which he took in 1886, and another specimen of the bird he procured in the district is dated May 3rd, 1887.

Mr. V. Willett gives us a record of one obtained in the Isle of Wight, July 5th, 1887.

In July, 1888, Mr. Corbin wrote² that the bird had been seen in several places in the county during the preceding May. "In one instance," he says, "a pair frequented a wood for a week or ten days and then disappeared; but during their stay they were very familiar, coming out on the lawn near the wood, and searching for food amongst the grass. Indeed, in every instance the tameness of the specimens was observed."

The Portsmouth papers of August 28th, 1889, recorded a "very fine specimen" from Milton, near that town; and Mr. Chalkley, the Winchester naturalist, received one from Fair Oak, near Eastleigh, on April 19th, 1890.

Mr. Wadham has given us information of one procured in the island on April 28th, 1891.

In Lord Malmesbury's collection at Heron Court are two specimens, one shot on the property in 1892—Hart also has one in his collection dated July of the same year—and the other was killed about twenty-five years before on the estate, but the exact place is not known.

The year 1892 was evidently marked by quite an immigration, for Mr. Hugh R. P. Wyatt wrote to the "Field" that when he was staying at Hawley Parsonage, near Farnborough, a hoopoe appeared on the lawn on the

¹ "Zoologist." 1883.

² "Zoologist." 1888.

morning of April 28th, remained throughout the day, and was there again on the following morning. He was not at all shy, and his appetite seemed insatiable. "As far as we could observe he fed upon ants, and also upon what appeared to be some sort of grub, which he extracted from the ground, apparently from holes already made by the starlings."

In 1893, one was seen near the "Landslip," near Ventnor, as recorded by Dr. Cowper¹, and the Winchester College Collection contains one obtained at Standon, near Hursley, in 1894.

Kelsall was informed by Mr. Gibb, formerly bailiff to Major Murray, at Ossemsley Manor, near Christchurch, that he saw a hoopoe in his garden on several occasions in the summer of 1895, and the bird appeared to be feeding upon a strange kind of ant which was swarming at the time. He sent specimens of the ant to the late Miss Ormerod, the well-known authority on noxious insects, who replied as follows:—"Your black ants appear to be *Formica fuliginosa*. I only twice met with this kind in my father's woods in Gloucestershire, and both times, curiously enough, one of my brothers, who had a great fondness for ornithology, saw the hoopoe." Mr. Gibbs' house is quite near to Wilverley Forest Lodge, the place haunted by hoopoes in 1861.

Dr. Cowper¹ records another as seen by a keeper of Colonel Atherley's near Languard Manor, in the Isle of Wight, in the spring of 1897; and Mr. Stares saw one at Porchester on May 19th of that year.²

Dr. Gunther, of the British Museum, wrote to the "Field" in January, 1900, that he had distinct information

¹ "Hants Court Guide." ² "Zoologist." 1898.

that a pair had reared their young for two years in succession, 1897 and 1898, in the New Forest, but he had no news of their welfare during the following summer.

The Rev. G. M. Hewett, of Winchester College, informs us that there were nests in the county in the years 1900 and 1902, and in May of the latter year he saw the young ones in the nest, which was in a hollow elm tree, in a countryside hedgerow, on private property.

Mr. Witherby saw one on Burley Lawn, in the New Forest, on April 25th, 1903.

Mr. Meade-Waldo has seen it in the New Forest as late as the end of November.¹

Mr. Poole, of Shanklin, writes us that he has three specimens shot in the vicinity of that place, and in April, 1904, there was still one of this species in the locality; the same month one was picked up dead in Dungewood Withybed, near Shorwell, in the island, but too far gone to preserve.

Mr. Jury, of Milford, informs us that he saw a hoopoe, mobbed by small birds, in the autumn of 1904; he was able to approach within a few yards of it.

Other specimens are also recorded from Alresford (two), Wield, Ropley Vicarage, Newton Manor House, Petersfield, Otterbourne (in a frost), and Fawley.

¹ "Victoria History of Hants."



DARTFORD WARBLER. (NEW FOREST. 1905.)

From a Photograph by Mr. Smith Whiting.



NEST OF DARTFORD WARBLER. (NEW FOREST. 1905.)

From a Photograph by Mr. Smith Whiting.

To face p. 118.

FAMILY—*Cuculidæ*.

GENUS—*Cuculus*.

116. *Cuculus canorus*. Cuckoo.

“To left and right
The cuckoo told his name to all the hills.”

Tennyson's "Gardener's Daughter."

“Then be the time to steal adown the vale,
And listen to the vagrant cuckoo's tale.”

"Naturalist's Summer Evening Walk."

A summer visitor to all parts of the county and Isle of Wight.

The bird appears to be fairly evenly distributed throughout all our districts. It arrives about the middle of April, the old birds leaving in August and the young about a month later.

We do not as a rule pay much attention to reported arrivals of the cuckoo in March, but there appears to be no room for doubt that a flight reached the south coast during that month in the year 1894, when no less than six were reported from Sussex, one from Liphook, in this county, and others from Surrey and Kent.¹

White says that the usual time of appearance is “the middle of April,” the earliest date of the calendar being April 7th; the New Forest people say it is let out at Beaulieu Fair (April 15th).

An observer on the Warner Light Vessel reports one flying from N.E. to S.W. on May 12th, 1902, and another going in the same direction on the 17th of the same month.

Mr. Percy Stone wrote to the “West Surrey Gazette”

¹ “Field.” 1902.

in 1902, that he saw a cuckoo being mobbed by small birds in his garden at Sandown, in the Isle of Wight, on November 29th. He noticed that caterpillars were particularly abundant at the same time.

Gilbert White writes¹: "When I came to recollect and inquire, I could not find that any cuckoo had ever been seen in these parts except in the nest of the wagtail, the hedge-sparrow, the tit-lark, the whitethroat, and the red-breast, all soft-billed insectivorous birds Should it appear that this simple bird, when divested of that natural *στροφή* that seems to raise the kind in general above themselves, and inspire them with extraordinary degrees of cunning and address, may be still endued with a more enlarged faculty of discerning what species are suitable and congenerous nursing-mothers for its disregarded eggs and young, and may deposit them only under their care, this would be adding wonder to wonder, and instancing in a fresh manner that the methods of Providence are not subjected to any mode or rule, but astonish us in new lights, and in various and changeable appearances."

He lived to read the famous monograph on the cuckoo published by Jenner in 1788, and alludes to it in a letter written to Marsham in 1791² as "very curious, new, and extraordinary."

The most usual foster-parents in this county are pied-wagtails, hedge-sparrows, meadow-pipits and robins. Less frequent are sedge-warblers, reed-warblers, blackcaps, garden-warblers, whitethroats, lesser whitethroats, willow-warblers, chiffchaffs, yellow-hammers, reed-buntings, ciril buntings, wrens, spotted flycatchers, chaffinches, green-finches, bullfinches, linnets, wood-larks, tree-pipits, and

¹ Letter iv. to Barrington. Selborne. February 19th, 1770.

² Letter ii. to Marsham. Selborne. January 18th, 1791.

whinchats, all of which have been made use of in this county.

Two cuckoo's eggs are not unfrequently found in one nest, and I have found an egg in such nests as wrens', willow-warblers', and chiffchaffs', in which it was quite impossible for the cuckoo to have laid them, and in one instance in a pied wagtail's nest, built in such a position in a heap of iron bars that the cuckoo could only have reached it with its head. In such nests the eggs must have been deposited with the beak ; indeed, I once disturbed a cuckoo from the middle of a road, which, before flying off, picked up what appeared to be an egg and carried it off with her. No doubt the old idea that she sucks little birds' eggs is to be explained by this habit of taking her own egg into her mouth on such occasions (Munn).

The ancient belief that cuckoos turn into hawks still exists in many parts of the county.

GENUS—*Coccyzus*.

117. *Coccyzus americanus*. Yellow-billed Cuckoo.

A very rare accidental visitor from America.

We have every reason to accept the two following records as genuine.

In the "Zoologist" of 1896, Mr. G. W. Smith wrote from Winchester College that Mr. Chalkley had pointed out to him a record of this bird in an Isle of Wight newspaper.

In March, 1897, he sent to the "Zoologist" the following notes, kindly communicated by Mr. Kent, who discovered the bird, and Mr. Smith, the taxidermist of Newport, who

stuffed it. Mr. Kent, of Old Park, Ventnor, wrote that he picked up the bird early in October, 1896:—"It was lying in the pathway outside my door. The place is in an exposed situation, about 400 yards from the sea facing west. There had been a storm and strong winds from the west, and most probably the bird was drifted here by the force of the wind coming across the sea. It could not have been dead more than an hour or so, as it was in a perfect state of preservation, and an hour previous was not in the place where I found it. The bird was an adult male."

Mr. Smith, of Newport, wrote that it was correctly identified, and was still in Mr. Kent's possession.

The second Hampshire example was recorded by Mr. Corbin, of Ringwood, as follows, in the "Zoologist" of December, 1901:—

"On October 26th, a gentleman told me he had, whilst standing on one of the bridges watching some pike-fishers, seen a strange bird settle upon and apparently scrutinize a bush at no very great distance from him. His description was that the bird was about the size of a thrush, but seemed to have more the colour of a nightingale on its sides, and a very long tail. As the late owner of Avon Castle had a few years ago liberated a number of Australian birds of various species, I supposed this might have been one of the very few survivors—if, indeed, any still survive—although I had no reason to suspect any bird answering the description had obtained its freedom.

"On October 30th, a specimen of the above-named cuckoo was shot about half a mile from the spot, but whether the same bird it is impossible to say. I saw it soon after it was killed, and I may note the following particulars:—

"Except where shot through the neck, the plumage appeared to be perfect, with no sign of abrasion either of wings or tail, as are seen in an "escape," and the body was fat and well-conditioned, weighing just over $2\frac{1}{2}$ oz.; it measured $11\frac{3}{4}$ in. from beak to tail; the third quill feather, the longest in the wing, being $5\frac{3}{8}$ inches from tip to carpal joint. Under mandible and base and sides of the upper, yellow; the rest of the beak black. Eyes dark brown; eyelids bright yellow, reminding one of the blackbird's. Back and two middle tail-feathers dark mouse-colour, with a tinge of reddish, especially on the tail; four outer feathers on either side blackish, with graduated dirty white markings, the longest being merely and indistinctly tipped, and the shortest and outermost white its entire length, at least on the outer web. The reddish tawny mark in the wing was large and conspicuous even when the wings were closed, but this may be a sexual characteristic, as on dissection it proved to be a male. The under parts from beak to tail were of an uniform pale grey, with a slight tinge of brown on the breast and sides. The legs (which were conspicuously longer than in the common *Cuculus canorus*, from the thigh feathers to the toes) were bluish lead-colour, with a sort of silvery bloom on them, which latter soon faded; the claws were black, and it seemed to me the scales on the legs were remarkably large, as only five in number occupied the bare space. I should have mentioned, perhaps, that the beak was longer and more decurved than in the common species, and the inside of the beak, which is well-known to be bright orange yellow in *C. canorus*, was conspicuously spotted with black, especially on the lower part of the palate, in the American bird. The tongue also had black markings on it. The bird had been feeding freely upon the grubs of the sawfly, as the distended gizzard proved,

the dark heads and spotted skins of the grubs, being unmistakable. I had observed very similar, if not identical, grubs a few days previously upon a rose-tree, and wondered if the comparatively mild autumn had been favourable to the development of these particular flies, as several months ago the same tree was almost stripped of its leaves by what I suppose was the same species of larva. From the few ornithological works to which I have access, it seems that this wandering bird is only a straggler to these islands, and only in the autumn, mostly in October.

"Since writing the foregoing, I showed the bird to a man who is often near the river with his gun, and without hesitation he said he saw the bird, or another like it, more than a month ago, one evening when he was out duck shooting, and should have killed it but for the large shot in his cartridges. This was some distance from where the bird was shot, so there might have been more than one in the vicinity."

ORDER—STRIGES.

FAMILY—*Strigidae*.

GENUS—*Strix*.

118. *Strix flammea*. **Barn-Owl.**

SCREECH OWL. WHITE OWL.

"Alone and warming his five wits,
The white owl in the belfry sits."

Tennyson's "The Owl."

A resident in all parts of the county and Isle of Wight. Generally distributed and not uncommon anywhere.

It inhabits indiscriminately buildings and hollow trees, and is the only owl which nests in the former, though the other species occasionally roost in them.

In the Isle of Wight it sometimes frequents the cliffs, and Mr. Poole tells us that a pair breed in the inland cliff at Hatchet Close, near Shanklin, and at several other places.

Dr. Cowper¹ has "seen its nest in old ivy growing on the side of a dwelling-house, the nest itself not being ten yards distant from one of the streets"—in Shanklin.

Gilbert White describes the habits of a pair, which breed under the eaves of Selborne Church,² and during the nesting-season, "which lasts the summer through. . . . About an hour before sunset (for then the mice begin to run), they sally forth in quest of prey, and hunt all round the hedges of meadows and small enclosures for them, which seem to be their only food. In this irregular country we can stand on an eminence and see them beat the fields over like a setting dog, and often drop down in the grass or corn. I have minuted these birds with my watch for an hour together, and have found that they return to their nest, the one or the other of them, about once in five minutes. . . . But a piece of address, which they show when they return loaded, should not, I think, be passed over in silence. As they take their prey with their claws, so they carry it in their claws to their nest, but, as their feet are necessary in their ascent under the tiles, they constantly perch first on the roof of the chancel, and shift the mouse from their claws to their bill, that the feet may be at liberty to take hold of the plate on the wall as they are rising under the eaves."

¹ "Hants Court Guide."

² Letter xv. to Barrington. Selborne. July 8th, 1773.

The Rev. Arthur Kaye, the present vicar of Selborne, tells us that there are now no barn-owls nesting in Selborne Church, access to the old nesting-place having been stopped when the church was restored some twenty years ago.

In spite of White's remark¹ the young are easily reared, and will feed on birds, fresh meat, and even fish, quite as readily as on mice and rats, and are very fond of water.

The whereabouts of a nest of young barn-owls may easily be discovered by the continued snoring or hissing noise they make during the night, and nothing is more weird than the appearance of four or five young ones staring solemnly down, with their black eyes and white faces, from a dark hole in a tree.

Four, five, or six eggs are usually laid, but an instance is known in the county where eight were found together. In 1885, from a nest at Laverstoke, three eggs were taken on April 6th, four days later two were taken, and again three on June 25th; on August 4th there were four young in the nest—the youngest about a day old, and the others each a few days older than the other—and one egg which hatched a day or two later. The eldest bird flew on September 18th, and the youngest on September 26th.

In this year also another pair had three young fully-grown on June 3rd, and on September 6th the same pair had another brood half-grown.

The young are blind for three or four days after hatching. The only sound uttered by this species, besides the curious sounds emitted by the young, is the wild screech, from which it gets one of its local names. It never hoots.

¹ Letter xi. to Pennant. Selborne. September 9th, 1767.

Mr. Meade-Waldo considers this bird scarce in the New Forest district, but there are several colonies along the south coast between Christchurch and Eling. The forest people say they are driven away by the tawny owls; and at Laverstoke once, a barn and tawny owl were found quite dead with their talons tightly driven into each other.

Dr. Bowdler Sharpe tells of a nest at Avington that was found to have over forty freshly-killed field-mice, which must have been caught during the preceding night.¹

FAMILY—*Asionidæ*.

GENUS—*Asio*.

119. *Asio otus*. Long-eared Owl.

HORNED OWL.

A local resident on the mainland, common in suitable districts, but not so plentiful in the Isle of Wight. Many migrants arrive in autumn. In the central district they are found in most of the woods, and are particularly numerous in large plantations of larch and fir. Though the eggs are usually hatched at the end of March, young birds have been found in February and eggs in October, so that we may consider the nesting season as lasting over the greater part of the year.

The young are easily reared and soon able to shift for themselves, but they are usually fierce and untamable, throwing themselves on their backs when approached,

¹ "Lloyd's Natural History."

assailing the intruder with pecks and snapping of the beak, and grabbing with their sharp claws.

The old birds frequently hunt by day, and prey more upon small birds than other owls. The young are sometimes provided with quite a collection of little birds and mice round the edge of a nest, and even the youngest owl in the family may be found trying to tear some small victim in order to devour it.

Some writers have described the caterwauling cry as made by the young only, but on the contrary it is uttered by the old birds. The young in the nest make a feeble and monotonous whistling or "creaking" noise. (Munn).

The bird is common in some parts of the New Forest; Mr. Meade-Waldo thinks more on the north side than the south, though it certainly nests in the Beaulieu Woods. Mr. Corbin noticed that this bird was particularly abundant in the Avon Valley in the summer of 1902, and had specimens brought to him in all stages of growth. He was struck by the beautiful variety of plumage among the young birds, especially about the facial disc. No two seemed alike, and one presented a particularly grotesque appearance, being almost black round the eyes and underneath the beak, while the margins of the disc seemed whiter than usual, which threw up the inky black tips in a remarkable manner.¹

Turning to the east side of the county, Bell remarks that it is strange that White was unacquainted with the two eared owls, though they frequently occurred in the neighbourhood. He tells the story of one of this species pitched upon a gate, which was so "stupid" that it allowed itself to be taken by hand, and he mentions Rotherfield as a place where the nest had been found.

¹ "Zoologist." 1902.

Wolmer, which now offers a congenial haunt, was not planted in White's time.

In the Isle of Wight, Bury says it has been known to breed at Newchurch, but is not of frequent occurrence.¹ Rogers only knew of one specimen in many years, and More of one other.

Mr. Wadham now considers it common, at any rate throughout the central and eastern parts of the island, and has often found both the eggs and young. One nestling he brought up by hand and kept as a pet for eight years.

120. *Asio brachyotus*. Short-eared Owl.

WOODCOCK OWL.

A winter visitor to all parts of the county and the Isle of Wight, rarely remaining to nest.

This being a bird of the open country is naturally most often met with either in our largest inland fields, the moorlands of the New Forest, or the marshes of the coast.

Partridge shooters sometimes disturb several together, which appear to have but lately arrived.

It has long been known that pairs occasionally remained to nest in the New Forest—probably in those years when ground vermin is specially abundant.

Mr. Corbin had a specimen brought him by a keeper in May, 1885. "He had previously informed me," he says, "that there was at least one pair, if not more, of a dark coloured owl, which frequented the extensive heaths

¹ "Zoologist." 1844.

over which his beat lay, and that they were seldom seen in the woods like the other owls; and he had seen them once or twice in the day-time. So I asked him to shoot me one for identification, with the result above-mentioned." On this occasion no nest was found.¹

In the year 1893 the same chronicler heard that a pair of these owls had haunted the same moorland throughout the summer, and saw two specimens killed in July and August respectively. The former "was very pale, possibly a female, but much mutilated and decomposed; the latter, a dark-plumaged male, in good condition and perfect feather."

Mr. Corbin naturally thought that these facts pointed to their breeding in the neighbourhood, though no nest was discovered.²

Mr. W. H. Turle found a nest on Bransbury Common, near Longparish, in 1892, among the rushes by the river, and six young were successfully reared there.

In the following summer he saw an old bird near the same place, but no nest was found.

Mr. A. Trevor-Battye has recorded ("Avicultural Magazine," 1904) that a pair successfully brought off two young in the same locality in 1904, and he has kindly given us further particulars concerning these young birds, which, he tells us, were unable to fly when they were discovered in a mere scratching in the ground, in a rough, damp, grassy place, not near the river, as that situation was too wet. Eventually the birds flew and remained for long in the same locality, and he thinks they may still be there as he put up six there in the winter. Several of their castings were examined, and all were composed of remains of voles.

¹ "Zoologist." 1885. ² "Zoologist." 1893.

He also tells that there were a great many of these birds about the district during the autumn and winter of 1904; at Bullington no less than sixteen were counted on the wing at once, and on another occasion, when shooting there, seven were seen in the air at one time.

It will be observed that the famous vole plague of 1892 coincides very nearly with the second supposed nest in the New Forest, and the first actual nest discovered on Bransbury Common.

In the Isle of Wight it is much more frequently met with than the last species, but during the autumn and winter only. Colonel Hawker in his "Diary" records shooting one at Alum Bay, but considered it then a rare bird.

In the marshes of the south-east coast of the county we have heard of this bird rising to a considerable height in the air in the daytime, and being mobbed by gulls.

GENUS—*Syrnium*.

121. *Syrnium aluco*. Tawny Owl.

BROWN OWL.

A resident, universally but sparingly distributed on the mainland. Rare in the Isle of Wight.

Gilbert White remarks¹: "Having some acquaintance with a tame brown owl, I find that it casts up the fur of mice, and the feathers of birds, in pellets, after the manner of hawks: when full, like a dog, it hides what it cannot eat. . . . The young of the brown owl will eat indiscriminately all that is brought—snails, rats, kittens,

¹ Letter xi. to Pennant. Selborne. September 6th, 1767.

puppies, magpies, and any kind of carrion or offal." And in another place¹ he says: "When brown owls hoot, their throats swell as big as a hen's egg. I have known an owl of this species live a full year without any water."

Gilbert White had a brother, Henry, more musical than himself, who was rector of Fyfield, and when staying at his rectory in February, 1771, he persuaded him to test the owls with his pitchpipe, with the result that most of them were found to hoot in B flat, only one descending as low as A flat.

Being at home again in the summer, he asked a musical inhabitant of Selborne to try the same experiment, who found that they varied between G flat, A flat and B flat.²

The bird almost invariably lays its eggs in hollow trees, but occasionally makes use of thick ivy outside a tree, or the old nest of another bird.

The number of eggs laid is not infrequently four, but more usually two or three.

The young are easily reared and make interesting pets. Of four taken from a nest in Doles Wood, near Andover, the hen birds, on reaching maturity, laid eggs in their cage every year, once as early as February 17th. At the time of laying they were very savage. They were very fond of water and bathed daily even in very cold weather; but this fondness for water we have noticed in most owls in captivity.

A nest occupied at Laverstoke in April, 1882, and containing an egg and one young bird, could not be reached, owing to the persistent and furious attacks of the hen bird, until she was knocked down. (Munn.)

¹ Letter xv. to Barrington. Selborne. July 8th, 1773.

² Letter x. to Barrington. Selborne. August 1st, 1771.

In the New Forest, as might be expected, this owl is common. Wise says that he has often heard a pair calling to each other, near Stoney Cross, at least two miles apart, and that he has frequently seen it mobbed by thrushes and blackbirds in the day-time, and taking refuge in large ivy-bushes.

In the Isle of Wight, Mr. Meade-Waldo¹ says it is very scarce, and others of our correspondents agree with him; Dr. Cowper having met with it in the "Great Wood Copse," near Shanklin²; Mr. Poole has seen it once near the same town, and Wadham, of Newport, has only had one specimen through his hands in the last ten years.

GENUS—*Nyctea*.

122. *Nyctea scandiaca*. Snowy Owl.

A very rare accidental visitor.

One in the Hart Museum at Christchurch, shot in Burley Wood, in the New Forest, in the winter of 1848, came from the collection of the Hon. Grantley Berkeley.

A native of the circumpolar regions.

[GENUS—*Nyctala*.

Nyctala tengmalmi. Tengmalm's Owl.

One is said to have been procured at Freshwater, in the Isle of Wight, in 1883,³ but we do not think the evidence sufficient.]

¹ "Victoria History of Hants."

² "Hants Court Guide."

³ Hadfield. "Zoologist." January, 1884.

GENUS—*Scops*.**123. *Scops giu.* Scops Owl.**

A rare occasional visitor.

The Hart collection contains a specimen obtained at Wilverley Lodge in July, 1866, and another killed near Holmsley on October 29th, 1884.

Mr. Walter Jeffery, taxidermist, of Gosport, a relative of Mr. William Jeffery, the well-known naturalist of Ratham, in Sussex, had a female brought to his house on June 10th, 1884, which had apparently only just reached our shores. The following particulars were kindly supplied by Mr. Jeffery and Mr. W. T. Pearce, of the Portsmouth Natural History Society. The bird was picked up on the shore at Stokes Bay by some boys who had been bathing; it appeared to be quite exhausted, and died in their hands, but it was still warm when Mrs. Jeffery bought it of them. It was in good plumage, but very emaciated, weighing barely two ounces, and contained only the remains of a few beetles in its stomach.

Its length was seven inches, expanse of wings one foot eight inches. Mr. Pearce possesses the sternum, and the skin is at Manchester.

This occurrence was recorded at the time in the "Field" and "Land and Water." It will be observed that one of the New Forest specimens was obtained in the same year.

There is another specimen in the Earl of Malmesbury's collection.

GENUS—*Bubo*.124. *Bubo ignavus*. **Eagle Owl.**

A very rare accidental visitor.

The specimen in the Hart collection formerly belonged to the Hon. Grantley Berkeley, and was obtained in the New Forest in the year 1855.

The late Mr. Dan Meinertzhagen wrote to the "Field" in 1891, to record a specimen killed at Paultons, near Romsey. He saw it in the shop of Mr. Dawkins, the Romsey bird-stuffer, and gives the following particulars. The extended wings measured 66 inches, one wing 30½ inches, and the body 30 inches. It was a male, in winter plumage, had been about the place for a month, and had eaten five pheasants, which were kept in a pheasantry.

A certain amount of suspicion attaches to modern records of this bird, because it is frequently kept in captivity, both at private houses and in menageries, but at the same time it must be remembered that both the dates above-mentioned coincide with severe winters which brought a great number of birds to England from the north, and it is a known habit of this owl to follow its prey on migration.

"The eagle owl," says Gilbert White, "could it be found to belong to us, is so majestic a bird that it would grace our fauna much." (Letter xxvi. to Pennant.)

GENUS—*Athene*.125. *Athene noctua*. **Little Owl.**

A rare occasional visitor, whose numbers have been largely increased by introduction.

As in the case of the eagle owl, it is the oldest records which most probably stand for truly wild birds, such as the specimen in the Hart collection, dated New Forest, September, 1856.

Wise, writing in November, 1862, says that when Farren first mentioned this bird as breeding in the forest he was somewhat incredulous. Subsequent enquiries, however, left no doubt in his mind that the bird was sometimes seen, though mistaken for a hawk. Mr. Farren (he says) found two eggs in a hole of an oak, which seem to have been those of this bird, and in 1862, he himself received information of a hawk laying white eggs, in a hollow tree, which were unfortunately broken.

Professor Newton, writing in 1871 in the first volume of the fourth edition of Yarrell, says that there is reason to believe that others, besides Waterton, have tried the experiment of introducing them into this country, and without making public the fact, and it has been generally assumed, since that date, that our Hampshire specimens are the result of importation.

In the year 1888, it was announced, in Howard Saunders' Manual and in Mansel-Pleydell's "Birds of Dorset," that Mr. Meade-Waldo had liberated specimens in the forest.

In the meanwhile several other Hampshire specimens were placed on record.

Mr. Hart saw the eggs of this species near Holmsley, on May 26th, 1899, and his collection contains stuffed examples from the New Forest, dated November, 1871, and October, 1874.

Hadfield wrote to the "Zoologist" in 1883, recording a male, in fine plumage, procured in the Isle of Wight on September 19th of the previous year.

Dr. J. S. Salter has met with two specimens near Basingstoke.

Mr. J. Roe killed one at Whitchurch about three years ago.

ORDER—ACCIPITRES.

[FAMILY—*Vulturidæ*.

GENUS—*Gyps*.

Gyps fulvus Griffon Vulture.

Mr. Howard Saunders writes in his "Manual of British Birds," published in 1889, that "an eminently cautious ornithologist, who must have seen thousands of griffons, but will not allow his name to be mentioned, informed me a few years since that he had recently watched one soaring around, near Southampton Water."]

FAMILY—*Falconidæ*.

GENUS—*Circus*.

126. *Circus æruginosus*. **Marsh-Harrier.**

MOOR BUZZARD.

A rare winter visitor, formerly resident.

This bird was no doubt at one period a plentiful inhabitant of our marsh-lands, especially those of the New Forest, but has long ceased to nest in this county.

In the MS. Journal of Gilbert White, he notes :—
“April 18, 1769. Moor Buzzard, *milvus æruginosus*, has young. It builds in low shrubs on wild heaths; five young.”

And again :—“Sept. 19, 1774. A moor buzzard with a white head was shot some time ago on Greatham Moor.”

Three nests reported from the New Forest in 1893,¹ certainly belonged to another species.

Mr. F. Bond saw a specimen obtained at Freshwater, in the Isle of Wight, in May or June, 1885. (More.)

One obtained by Mr. Chalkley from near Andover in 1865, is in the Winchester College collection.

The Hart collection contains two from the New Forest, dated October 25th, 1872, and November 30th, 1886.

Mr. A. Willett records one from the Isle of Wight, January 8th, 1886, and Mr. Wadham one from Chillerton Down on April 24th, 1891.

A letter appeared in the “Portsmouth Evening News” of October 31st, 1889, saying that Mr. A. C. Mills had shot a fine specimen in Farlington Marshes. It measured two feet in length and over four feet across the expanded wings, and was preserved by Mr. F. Artlett, of Commercial Road, Landport.

¹ “Zoologist.” 1893.

127. *Circus cyaneus*. **Hen-Harrier.**

BLUE HAWK. RING-TAIL.

Now a winter visitor to most parts of the county and Isle of Wight, but occasionally remaining to nest.

Formerly resident.

The following passages from Gilbert White's "Selborne" are sufficient to prove that it was a well-known resident in Hampshire in those days—"Hen-harriers fly low over heaths or fields of corn, and beat the ground regularly like a pointer or setting-dog."¹

"Mr. White, of Newton,"—no doubt his nephew Edward, rector of Newton Valence—"sprung a pheasant in a wheat stubble and shot at it; when, notwithstanding the report of the gun, it was immediately pursued by the blue hawk, known by the name of the hen-harrier, but escaped into some covert. He then sprung a second, and third, in the same field, that got away in the same manner; the hawk hovering round him all the while that he was beating the field, conscious, no doubt, of the game that lurked in the stubble."²

Montagu, writing to White in 1789, says: "I am at a loss for your *blue pigeon-hawk*, especially as you say its female is brown; from its place of resort I should conceive it to be the hen-harrier, and that you had not corrected the mistake of other ornithologists, and which Pennant fell into in his first edition, where he gave the ring-tail for its female." In this matter White was correct and Montagu wrong, though Yarrell gives the credit of the discovery to the Devonshire naturalist.

¹ Letter xlii. to Barrington. Selborne. August 7th, 1778.

² "Observations on Birds."

In the meantime, in the year 1802, Montagu had discovered a second species of "blue hawk" in Devonshire (closely resembling the first in general appearance and habits), which is now called "Montagu's harrier" in his honour. For a time, no doubt, the name hen-harrier was still given indiscriminately by most persons to both species alike, and it is only of late years that Montagu's harrier has been discovered to be far more common as a nesting species in the county than the other, no doubt usurping the localities rendered vacant by the decrease of the larger species.

Lord Malmesbury has in his collection at Heron Court a fine male specimen killed at Broadlands and given to Lord FitzHarris (afterwards the second Earl of Malmesbury) in 1812, by the Hon. William Temple.

Other specimens at Heron Court are a female and two young, from the nest, where there were four young ones, in a small furze-brake, on the Heron Court estate, and these may be possibly some of those referred to in the first volume of the Earl of Malmesbury's "Memoirs of an Ex-Minister," where we read that the waste-land lying along the coast between Christchurch and Poole was "a favourite resort and breeding-ground of the hen-harrier, a very destructive species of hawk. They built their nests under the furze-bushes, and from these impenetrable places used to issue forth and plunder the cultivated country outside for many miles. There was only one way of finding their nests, which our keeper adopted in the breeding season. When he saw one crossing the valley to hunt the fields and carry off its prey to the moors, he watched it till out of sight, and on the next day posted himself at that point. The bird was sure to come along the same line, and again the man followed

it as far as he could see, and so again, day by day, sometimes for five miles, until he arrived at the nest and shot the old birds."

The bird is mentioned also in Longcroft's "Hundred of Bosmere," published in 1857.

Bury, writing in 1844,¹ says that the hen-harrier was not uncommon in the Isle of Wight, and had been known to breed in Bordwood Forest, in the parish of Newchurch.

Wise, in 1862,² says it has become much more numerous of late in the New Forest, and no less than six or seven pairs were trapped last year, and he gives the following graphic account of this species—"In 1859 a nest containing three young birds was found near Picket Post by a woodman, and another in 1862, with three eggs, on Beaulieu Heath.

"One of the forest keepers described the fern for some distance round the nest, which he discovered, as completely trodden down by the young birds, and so littered with feathers and dirt that, to use his own words, the place had exactly the appearance of a goose-pen.

"A woodman, too, who in 1860 was set to watch a pair near Ocknell, gave me an interesting account of his seeing the old birds breaking off the young tops of the fern to form their nest. I have never myself been fortunate enough in the forest to find their nest, but I have often watched a pair on Black Knoll and Beaulieu Heath skimming over the ground, pausing to hover just above the furze, then flying forward for some ten or twenty yards, turning themselves suddenly sideways; and then again for a minute, poising, kestrel-like, beating each bush,

¹ "Zoologist." 1844.

² "New Forest." 1862.

and every now and then going up a little higher in the air, but quickly coming down close over the cover."

In 1856, Mr. P. W. West recorded a specimen from Horndean.¹

In Mr. Rake's collection are two eggs taken in June, 1864, and the note in his catalogue tells us that they were much incubated, the female was shot from this nest at Linwood, in the New Forest, by W. Deacon. Another nest was found near Ashley Lodge, in July, 1863, two addled eggs remaining after one young bird had fled, the two old birds were killed by Mr. Bumstead, and afterwards preserved by Mr. Haydon. It is noteworthy that Mr. Rake calls this specimen the "common harrier" in his MS.

The Hart collection contains a male, dated 1867; a pair with nest and eggs, dated June 30th, 1874; and a female, dated 1877.

One was procured near Micheldever, in November, 1884.

A female was shot at Crabbe Wood, near Winchester, in 1889, by Mr. E. Sparey, and is now in the Winchester College collection.

Mr. Chalkley reports one shot at Moody's Down, near Andover, in February, 1890; and a young male was procured at Titchborne on April 29th, 1892.²

Mr. W. H. Turle found a nest with eggs in the New Forest on June 12th, 1893, belonging to what was then supposed to be the only resident pair there; but Mr. Corbin reports a pair being unfortunately killed in the same month, on the opposite side of the Forest.³ Mr. Chalkley received one from Basingstoke in the following

¹ "Naturalist." 1856.

² "Zoologist." 1893.

³ "Zoologist." November, 1893.

August,¹ and the "History of Alton" mentions one obtained at Wolmer pond in the autumn of the same year.

Mr. G. W. Smith, who succeeded Mr. Sutton Davies as ornithological recorder of Winchester, mentions a specimen shot by a keeper at Stockbridge on November 23rd, 1895 and a male procured near Andover on November 18th, 1897.

Dr. Cowper says it has been obtained near Pan Common, in the Isle of Wight, and Wadham records a specimen killed on Westridge Down, on February 7th, 1891.

Specimens have also been recorded at various times from Hackwood, Farringdon, Alton, Titchfield—in fact there are few large estates in the county where it has not occurred, and on the high open downs of our northern districts it may be reckoned a frequent winter visitor.

128. *Circus cineraceus*. Montagu's Harrier.

ASH-COLOURED HARRIER.

A regular summer visitor to certain districts of the mainland; less common in the Isle of Wight.

Although this bird was not recognized as a distinct species in England until the beginning of last century, it is now by far the most common harrier in this county, and we believe that there are two districts within our borders, besides the New Forest, where it appears annually, and attempts, with more or less success, to rear its young.

Our oldest record is from the Isle of Wight. Bury mentions, in the "Zoologist" of 1844, that he had examined a young female killed some years before on Sir Richard

¹ "Zoologist." August, 1894.

Simeon's estate, and then in the possession of Mr. J. B. Tuttiett.

The first specimens recognized on the mainland appear to be a pair shot at Newton Valence by a Mr. Eames, in May, 1850, as mentioned in a footnote in Bell's edition of White's "Selborne." Judging from the date, they must have been nesting.

More next records one brought to Rogers, of Freshwater, in August, 1858, and Wise, writing about the year 1862, says that "Mr. Hart has, during the last twenty years, received three or four specimens to stuff—one in the winter of 1861. Mr. Farren saw a male bird, April, 1861."

If the above "three or four" represent the comparative rarity of the bird, its rapid increase during the next twenty years is remarkable. We conclude, however, that on the decrease of its larger and more powerful relative, the hen-harrier, as a breeding species, there has been a corresponding increase of Montagu's harrier, whose habits and habitat are similar; and the fact of its visiting us only during the summer, or "close season," would help to protect it.

There is a pair with their nest in the Hart collection, dated July 10th, 1871.

Mr. Corbin's first acquaintance with the species appears to date from some years prior to 1875, for he writes in the "Zoologist" for that year—"Several years ago a gentleman sent me a hawk—with pale dove-like back, and prettily marked belly and thighs, but at that time I was totally ignorant of its name or value, but I have since discovered that it was a small male Montagu's harrier. It was obtained on a heath near here, close to the borders of Dorset, where a pair had built the previous summer. One day in May, 1871, I was in

the meadows not far from the river, when I saw a large hawk flying towards me, and it settled upon an elevation at no great distance,—so near, in fact, that I could see its plumage very distinctly. Next day and for several consecutive days its presence was to me a source of pleasure. I then lost sight of it for a week or ten days, when a gamekeeper brought a bird which he had trapped whilst in the act of eating a leveret, which I have every reason to suppose was the specimen I had previously observed, and it proved to be a female of Montagu's harrier. Since then I have seen several others, especially males, at the bird-stuffers' in neighbouring towns, and during the spring of 1874 I was highly gratified at seeing two, if not three, pairs in the New Forest, where the species undoubtedly breeds most seasons, although I have never heard of its eggs being found. About the middle of May a gamekeeper trapped two pairs of them, and I did not see the others afterwards."

One of our historic nests is that discovered by Mr. Howard Saunders on the furze-covered down above Ventnor on May 30th, 1875. There were three eggs in the nest, and another was laid later. One young bird from this nest was reared and remained in Captain Hadfield's possession for six or seven weeks, when it was sent to the Zoological Gardens.

The finding of the nest was recorded in the "Field"; in the "Zoologist" for 1875, Hadfield minutely describes the different stages of plumage of the young bird, and its habits in the nest and in captivity.

Colonel Irby informed us that he found the nest in the New Forest in the same year, and that the bird also came every year to a certain district in the north-east of the county, where Captain Savile Reid found its nest in 1878.

Mr. W. T. Pearce, one of the Hon. Secretaries of the Portsmouth Natural Science Society, informed us of a nest being found on our south-eastern coast in June, 1883, when four eggs were taken, two from the nest, and two from the ground near it.

Mr. Corbin recorded the dark variety of this species from the neighbourhood of Ringwood in May, 1887, and this variety has been obtained in this locality once or twice before.¹

The Hon. Gerald Lascelles, writing to Kelsall in 1890, said that the species had nested in the New Forest the three preceding seasons.

Mr. A. R. Brooke-Leeds kindly informs us that two specimens were shot on Mersley Down, near Arreton, in the Isle of Wight, in the autumn of 1888, and Mr. Wadham records a male shot at Chale on April 30th, 1891.

The Earl of Malmesbury's collection contains an example procured on the estate in 1892.

In 1893, Mr. Corbin knew of a nest in the Forest from which the female reared the brood after the male was killed.²

In the following year again two or three nests were known to Mr. Corbin. "One pair," he says, "brought off a brood of three, which were seen from time to time frequenting the place of their birth—a low, somewhat damp situation, covered with coarse grass and other herbage, amongst which *Osmunda regalis* grew tallest, with here and there a few scattered birches of a stunted growth, the whole situation being overhung by a noble oakwood crowning the distant hill Another pair frequented a situation a few miles further down the valley, but

¹ "Zoologist." September, 1887.

² "Zoologist." November, 1893.

I am sorry to add both were killed, the male on June 4th, and the female ten days later. From the denuded underparts, the latter showed unmistakable signs of nidification, and the keeper who killed the bird said he believed she had young somewhere on the extensive heaths to the west of the river, as she and her mate always came from that direction. It is somewhat remarkable that three or four days after he had shot the male, he observed another "blue hawk" in company with the female, and even after she was slain, still a pair of old birds was left, so there must have been two pairs in the vicinity, for the young, if hatched, were certainly not in the plumage described."¹

Mr. Corbin carefully examined the stomachs of the murdered pair, and found the remains of two yellow-hammers, two meadow pipits, a lizard, and various small birds' eggs, including those of the skylark.

In the next year also (1895), Mr. Harting answers for two broods at least being reared in the same district.²

In the south-east corner we have received an account of a nest of this species found on July 13th, 1898; it was in a patch of furze, on extensive waste land, and contained three young ones. This nesting-haunt has been resorted to for some time, and still continues to be visited by the birds.

Mr. Meade-Waldo, writing in the "Victoria History of Hants," says they can be found in most seasons, by those who know where to look.

The Hon. Gerald Lascelles informs us that the birds arrive as early as February, and Mr. Hart has seen them in every month of the year except January, but our best authorities still rank them as summer visitors.

¹ "Zoologist." September, 1894.

² "Handbook of British Birds,"

Mr. Witherby saw Montagu's harrier in the New Forest several times in July, 1901; the nest also was found, but the young were taken by a fox!

GENUS—*Buteo*.

129. *Buteo vulgaris*. Buzzard.

A very scarce resident on the mainland, very seldom allowed to rear its young, but occurring in various parts of the county and Isle of Wight in autumn and winter.

Formerly a fairly common bird in our wooded districts, and we have Mr. Corbin's authority for saying that he remembers when they were as plentiful as sparrow-hawks, and he has received them in numbers from the Somerley Estate, and hardly any two alike in plumage.

Gilbert White has only short notes on this species, that "Kites and buzzards sail round in circles with wings expanded and motionless,"¹ and that the young "follow their dam with a piping and wailing noise."

The Isle of Wight was probably the first part of our district to lose its nesting buzzards, for Bury, writing in 1844, said that they had been known to nest there some years back.

Gilpin does not mention this species in his "Forest Scenery," though it cannot have escaped his notice in the New Forest, and he probably included it with the kite.

In Wise's time it must have been fairly plentiful, for he says² it "is a resident all through the year, and

¹ Letter xlii. to Barrington. Selborne. August 7th, 1778.

² "New Forest," p. 265.

may now and then be seen towering high up in the air, so high that you will not at first notice him, unless you hear his wild scream. It is not, however, nearly so plentiful as formerly. He is a sad coward, and the common crow will not only attack him, but defeat him. . . . The jays and magpies, too, and even the pewits, will mob him, the latter striking at him almost like a falcon. Its favourite breeding-places are in the Denny and Bratley Woods, Sloden, Birchen Hat, Mark Ash, and Prior's Acre.

"Several nests are yearly taken, for the bird generally breeds when the bark strippers are at work in April and May. A series of its eggs in my collection show every variety of colouring, from nearly pure white to richly blotched specimens. In the breeding season the birds are excessively destructive. A boy, who climbed up to a nest in the spring of 1860, told me he found no less than two young rabbits, a grey hen, and two thrushes as provision for the nestlings. However, there is always some compensation, for in one which I examined were the skeletons of two snakes and a rat picked to the bone."

Mr. Rake, of Fordingbridge, about that time, included it among those species noticed from his garden in the town.

Mr. F. W. Haydon, writing to "Science Gossip" in 1866, said that it was then easy to obtain the eggs in the Forest, and it is, of course, in this corner of the county that the species has retained its footing longest.

The specimens in the Hart collection are dated November, 1876, and November, 1880, and Lord Lilford records a nest in the Forest in 1887, Harting one in 1895, and another in June, 1901, is noted by Mr. Witherby, who thinks the young got off safely.

Mr. Meade-Waldo, writing in 1900,¹ says, "In 1896 a pair hatched and successfully reared two young ones in a Scotch fir tree not far from Knightwood enclosure; and it was a great pleasure to any ornithologist to see the two old birds with their young floating overhead during the month of July. There may have been young reared since then, but I am not certain of it. Nests have been built every year. I am informed by Mr. Stares that a pair of buzzards bred in a wood near Titchfield in 1885, and there are records of odd nests from other parts of the county within the last ten years."

Mr. Turner-Turner, of Avon Castle, had a specimen taken from a nest in the New Forest, which lived twenty-five years in captivity.

Turning to other parts of the county, we do not consider it necessary to record occurrences in autumn and winter, which are frequent in all parts of the mainland, and, indeed, to the range of downs on the north of the county, it is a fairly regular visitor at these seasons. But nests and examples seen in the summer are of more interest.

A pair nested in Doles Wood, near Andover, in 1886 and 1887. In the second year, Mr. W. H. Turle took two fresh eggs on May 11th, from an old crow's nest, in an oak tree about thirty feet from the ground, but one of the old birds was unfortunately shot.

On June 30th, 1892, Mr. Sutton Davies noticed a big hawk, which he supposed to be of this species, skimming over the downs near Winchester;² and Mr. G. W. Smith records one brought to Mr. Chalkley in the middle of July, 1897.³

¹ "Victoria History of Hants."

² "Zoologist." 1894.

³ "Zoologist." 1897.

A pair which once nested in Hackwood Park, near Basingstoke, is now represented by a specimen in the Alton Museum, and a correspondent at Wickham tells us of a pair which inhabited that district about sixty years ago.

GENUS—*Archibuteo*.

130. *Archibuteo lagopus*. Rough-legged Buzzard.

An occasional winter visitor to all parts of the county and Isle of Wight.

Our oldest record is due to a well-known naturalist, the late Mr. Jenyns, who reported a specimen from the Isle of Wight some time before 1835.¹ Bury also records another Isle of Wight specimen.

Wise² mentions that "Mr. Rake informs me that a specimen was trapped near Fordingbridge, in the summer of 1887. It is, however, more generally noticed later in the year."

The Hart collection contains a male bird, dated November 25th, 1875, and Hadfield reported one from Ryde in October of the following year.³

The Fifth Report of the Winchester College Natural History Society mentions one shot at Stockbridge in the snowy January of 1881.

One was trapped at Facombe, in the north-west of the county, about 1881, and was still living in captivity there in 1894.

¹ "Manual of British Vertebrate Animals," by L. Jenyns. 1835.

² "New Forest."

³ "Zoologist."

Mr. Corbin informs us of one obtained near Ringwood in December, 1884.

In the "Zoologist" of 1892, Mr. Sutton Davies tells the story of a specimen which he found caught in a trap on a rabbit warren near Winchester, on March 13th. He had reason to think that the bird had frequented the warren since the previous November. He released the bird, and bandaged its leg, and kept it for some time in captivity. It measured forty-eight inches across the wings and twenty-one inches in length of body, from which dimensions, as compared with those in Yarrell, he supposed it to be a young male.

Mr. Corbin, in the "Zoologist" of 1898, writes as follows, from Ringwood—"In January, 1897, a specimen of *Buteo lagopus* was killed not far from the Avon in this neighbourhood The bird was a noble specimen, though badly shot, and to a person not familiar with the species, its soft owl-like plumage appeared peculiar. . . . The specimen in question had been feeding upon a rat. . . . I had seen the species but twice before, in 1884 and again in 1894; but, if I recollect rightly, the present specimen had much more white about it than either of the former, and was, I imagine, an older bird."

There is also a specimen in the Heron Court collection.

GENUS—*Aquila*.

131. *Aquila clanga*. Spotted Eagle.

A very rare accidental visitor.

The only example which has occurred within our

boundaries is recorded by Wise¹: "A fine male specimen was shot, December 28th, 1861, by a keeper of Lord Normanton's, in the plantation near Somerley. The bird had been noticed for some days previously hovering over the forest. Mr. Rake, who saw it in the flesh, tells me that the wings measured six feet from tip to tip, and its weight was exactly eight pounds."

The bird is still in Lord Normanton's collection at Somerley, near Ringwood.

This specimen is not noticed by Yarrell and Newton, and is only included in the second edition of Saunders' "Manual," though another specimen procured in Cornwall during the previous month is recorded in these works.

[*Aquila chrysaëtus*. Golden Eagle.]

There are several records of the occurrence of this species in the county, but on examination we consider that the only one which cannot be proved as having been an escaped bird is that recorded by Bury in the "Zoologist" of 1844, and even the identification of this one—"by the form and measurements of the beak" is open to some doubt. He writes that it made its appearance about the year 1828 in the neighbourhood of Appuldurcombe. It was seen repeatedly and returned constantly to the same tree to roost. At the expiration of three or four weeks the keeper waylaid and wounded it. It escaped for a time, but was captured two or three days subsequently by some labourers, and brought to the keeper's lodge. It refused to eat, though apparently wounded in the wing only, and died in about ten days.

¹ "New Forest."

While in the neighbourhood it destroyed several lambs, and devoured the carcase of a sheep that had died, to which it was seen frequently to resort. The skull and neck of this bird, after being nailed to a door, came into Bury's possession in 1843, and he identified it as above mentioned.

Another specimen, a female, was shot on Westridge Down, near Shorwell, in the Isle of Wight, in September, 1872, by Mr. Joseph Jolliffe, and is now in the possession of Dr. Jolliffe, of Yafford House, Shorwell.

Concerning this specimen Captain Hadfield wrote as follows to the "Zoologist," in November, 1872: "A full-grown but immature bird of this rare species was shot on the 21st of September by Mr. Joseph Jolliffe, who, with two others, went in search of it at an early hour, it having been observed in that neighbourhood and at Gatcombe for some days." He then gives a full description of its plumage, and adds the following conclusive reasons for believing that it was an escaped bird.

"*First*, its tameness and unwariness, though fasting, in allowing three men with guns so near an approach before taking wing . . . and when but slightly wounded allowing itself to be readily captured.

"*Secondly*, nothing being found in the stomach but the claw and feather of a partridge, which may have belonged to a wounded or dead bird.

"*Thirdly*, the total loss of one of its toes, long since healed, looks as if the bird had been trapped.

"*Fourthly*, the abraded primary shafts and ragged webs, and the imperfect and disordered state of the plumage. . . .

"*Fifthly*, its light weight, though well-nigh, if not quite, full-grown."

A third specimen was shot at Wotton, near Ryde, in 1885, and had been seen for some time in the Park at Osborne, but Captain Hadfield writes to the "Zoologist" that "an intelligent young man who takes great interest in ornithology, having examined this bird, is of opinion that it had been in confinement, of which there can be little doubt, the tail-feathers being worn and ragged."

Mr. Mansell-Pleydell records in the "Birds of Dorsetshire" that one was seen in Christchurch Harbour in October, 1885, but we doubt the correct identification of this species from merely being seen.

Neither Kelsall nor Mr. Meade-Waldo admit it in either of their lists.]

GENUS—*Haliaëtus*.

132. *Haliaëtus albicilla*. White-tailed Eagle.

SEA EAGLE.

"He clasps the crag with crooked hands;
Close to the sun in lonely lands,
Ringed with the azure world, he stands.
The wrinkled sea beneath him crawls;
He watches from his mountain walls,
And like a thunderbolt he falls."

Tennyson's "The Eagle."

An occasional visitor of rare occurrence, usually in autumn and winter; formerly a resident of the Isle of Wight.

Warner¹ describes an eyrie in the Culver Cliffs:—"The last eagle known to build in Culver Cliff (according to

¹ "History of the Isle of Wight." 1795.

the information I could obtain) came there in 1780. An adventurous countryman, who had frequently descended the rock for the eggs of its other winged tenants, having watched the eagle from the nest, paid a visit to it also. He found this fabrication to be of considerable size, and formed of sticks and rushes laid alternately; containing one solitary young bird. This he took, but not knowing how to manage it, the eaglet soon died."

Yarrell says it probably belonged to this species.

In the Solent, Hawker several times came across it. On February 10th, 1827, he writes in his "Diary":—"Reade paddled me up to within 130 yards of a huge sea eagle. I let fly, beat him down, and then up he got, and went away out of sight."

On December 28th, 1829, he notes from Keyhaven: "Saw one eagle."

On January 9th, 1837—"Gave up my whole tide for shooting in the pursuit of a splendid eagle that appeared off Hurst. I had all but got him when a lubber rushed out with a musket and scared him away. He, however, returned in a few hours and gave me a second chance by sitting on Hurst beach within range of any great gun while afloat; but the baker drove by and put him up, when he flew several miles westward I found he had been seen three days in succession within a few hundred yards of the same place."

On January 11th he had another distant view of the eagle hovering off the Isle of Wight.

On the 15th, "the eagle came again to the beach, as if he knew it was Sunday."

On January 22nd, 1841, he saw "a little battle between two ravens and a huge eagle, who dropped his grey plover that he held in the fight, and on which bird I

dined ; and I should have shot the eagle had not a second fight with some gulls made him rise again and fly up to the Isle of Wight cliffs."

The next day he "saw the eagle again on wing, and sailed after him for miles, till we saw him pitched with five crows flapping over him, but he would not remain long enough in one place for us to 'settle his hash.'"

Of its occurrence in the New Forest, Gilpin wrote in 1834 ¹—"I have heard of a pair of eagles, which took possession of a part of the forest called King's Wood, where they eluded all the arts of the keeper, and continued their annual depredations for several years. Some time ago an eagle was killed, after three discharges, near Ashley Lodge, and was extended, like the imperial arms, in the court-room of the King's House, at Lyndhurst. . . . Several deer were found by the keepers of the New Forest dead, and with their eyes torn out. After a careful watch, a deer was discovered in great agony, struggling with an eagle, which had seized him by the head and shoulders. The keeper fired and killed the bird, which was beautifully preserved, and it afterwards formed one of the objects in Bullock's London Museum."

Bury recorded ("Zoologist," 1844,) that, about 1837, one was seen at the Hermitage, in the Isle of Wight, which was attracted by a tame one kept there, and remained for some hours in the neighbourhood ; the newspapers of the following week recorded the capture of a white-tailed eagle in the New Forest. It will be noted that this date corresponds with one of those seen by Colonel Hawker off Hurst.

In the Museum at Newport is the tame specimen

referred to above "which was shot and slightly wounded at Niton, by W. Dawes, Esq., and for some years afterwards was kept chained in the grounds at the Hermitage.

The example referred to in the "Zoologist" for 1857 as having been obtained at Haslar, had been brought home from the Crimea by soldiers.

Wise in his "New Forest" quotes Gilpin's eagles as "golden eagles," but it is most improbable that they were of that species. "The Eagle Tree," he says, "at the extreme west end of Vinney Ridge, commemorates where a sea eagle was shot, some fifty years ago, by a Forest keeper."

In the Hart collection is a specimen obtained on December 4th, 1871.

Mr. Meade-Waldo says¹ those that visit the New Forest district are usually immature birds, but in July, 1885, he saw "a fine adult male rise out of a bog on the Wilverley Hills, and after taking one or two circles came over us at a good height, the sun shining through his white tail. I afterwards found that this eagle roosted most of the summer on the beacon on Hengistbury Head. I saw a white-tailed eagle sitting on the ground in the centre of a large seed-field in December, 1895, close to Micheldever station."

About 1886, a white-tailed eagle was shot at Cadland and is now preserved in Cadland House, and in the winter of 1888-9, another specimen was at large in the same neighbourhood, and remained there for some two or three months.

In the Earl of Malmesbury's collection at Heron Court are two specimens killed on the estate—one, a magnificent

¹ "Victoria History of Hants."

bird, on January 9th, 1893; and the other, some forty years before.

Mr. V. Willett has also furnished us with information of one killed on St. Catherine's Down in the Isle of Wight some years back.

[GENUS—*Astur*.

Astur palumbarius.—Goshawk.

We do not think there is sufficient evidence to include this bird in our list.

Hawker's "Diary" for March, 1819, written at Long-parish, contains the following entry:—"After killing a wood-pigeon out of a flock, I knocked down an immense goshawk, which I killed by means of lying down in the young wood, over which he had been hovering for several evenings." It would seem that the writer called the peregrine by this name, for on December 24th, 1813, he mentions shooting at a goshawk among the cliffs near Swanage, whereas he never mentions the peregrine in his diary under its proper name; and Yarrell agrees that this mistake was frequently made by unscientific writers.

Wise ¹ says that sometimes "a stray bird" of this species is killed in the Forest, but Mr. Corbin and other naturalists living on the spot consider that if the bird occurred in this neighbourhood it was probably escaped from some hawking party.

Mr. Corbin remembers that many years ago, the police used to be sent round asking for news of escaped birds.

Dr. Cowper ² mentions a pair that remained on the

¹ "New Forest."

² "Hants Court Guide."

Shanklin Downs for three or four days in 1896, and on enquiry he has kindly informed us—"They were observed by a friend of mine, the late Guy Attwood, who was a good observer. He was within ten yards or less of one of the birds, which was busily engaged feeding on a half-grown rabbit, which it had apparently captured. He had stuffed examples of most of the British birds of prey, and was very familiar with their appearance. He described the flight of the birds, which corresponded with that given in the books. . . . The birds were neither of them shot or captured."

This species was not included in Kelsall's nor in Mr. Meade-Waldo's list, and we are unable to hear of any authentic local specimen,—other than tamed birds—in any collection in the county.]

GENUS—*Accipiter*.

133. *Accipiter nisus*. Sparrow-Hawk.

"Sometime the sparhawk, wheel'd along,
Hush'd all the groves from fear of wrong."

Tennyson's "Sir Lancelot and Queen Guinevere."

Still a fairly common resident throughout the county and Isle of Wight.

Gilbert White mentions¹ a pair which bred in an old crow's nest on a low beech in Selborne Hanger, and preyed on new-flown swallows and martins; but we are inclined to think that these may have been hobbies—for the date of there being young—July—is late for sparrow-hawks;

¹ Letter xliii. to Pennant.

and certainly their preying on martins and swallows is unusual, though hobbies frequently do so; and we have found that the sparrow-hawk very rarely, if ever, lays in an old nest.

Year after year this species resorts to the same copse to nest, constructing a fresh nest every year—a large structure of fine twigs—the old nests of former years being frequently occupied by long-eared owls or kestrels. Four to six eggs are laid, but we have known instances of a nest containing seven found at Dumper's Oak, near King Somborne, and one with eight at Ridgway, near Overton.

It is remarkable how this bird contrives to escape the persecution waged against it by gamekeepers, and to continue to levy toll on the young game, for the nest is most easy to find and often placed in a most conspicuous situation, in a tree by the side of, or even overhanging, a path in a wood, or at the edge of a copse, rather than in the depths of it; several we have known built close to keepers' cottages; and besides, a good many feathers are dropped in the vicinity of the nest, and there are always some pieces of down adhering to the twigs of a nest that contains eggs.

There is evidently a migration of this species, for on May 28th, 1902, one was recorded from the Warner Light Vessel, which rested on the vessel's rail for a few minutes, and then flew off northwards, and two days later another was noted flying in the same direction. And Mr. Meade-Waldo says there is a large autumn migration.¹

Shore in his "History of Hampshire" says (quoting from Blount's "Ancient Tenures of Land") that at

¹ "Victoria History of Hants."

Warnford, land worth 100s. was held by the service of providing a sparrow-hawk "to be paid to our lord the king yearly, on the feast of St. Michael, at the Exchequer."

GENUS—*Milvus*.

134. *Milvus iclinus*. Kite.

An accidental visitor, formerly resident.

This species, which was evidently at one time plentiful, has now completely disappeared as a resident from the county, and is of the rarest occurrence.

Evidence of its former presence still remains in the names of places—as "Kitelands"—a copse near Micheldever Station; "Kitehill"—near Upton Grey, etc.

White has a note in his MS. Journal:—"April 17th, 1768, fork-tailed kite lays three eggs."

Gilpin¹ mentions the kite as "one of the most harmonious appendages of the forests," and remarks "we seldom see more than two of this species together—the male and the female. They seem to divide the Forest into provinces; each bird hath his own, and, with more than princely caution, avoids his neighbours." This is quite characteristic of the kite, or we might assume, as he does not mention the buzzard, that he had confused the two species.

Mr. Harting has kindly informed us that Mr. E. Fitton had kites' eggs from the New Forest in 1850, one of which is in Professor Newton's collection at Cambridge.

In the Hart collection is a bird procured at Stanpit Marsh, near Christchurch, in 1851.

¹ "Forest Scenery." 1834.

Wise¹ says that Mr. Farren saw one in April, 1861; and that another was trapped at New Park, about six years previously, in the winter.

The last nest taken in the county is recorded by Mr. J. H. Willmore, formerly of Queenwood College, near Stockbridge, who wrote to Kelsall in 1889. "The nest was in a fir-tree, I believe, at the Broughton end of the avenue, and the three eggs were taken in May, 1864, by John, now Dr., Hopkinson, John Ashby, now J.P. of Staines, and the late Samuel Forrest. I wrote to Mr. Ashby, and have his letter confirming this."

Hadfield has recorded a specimen from the Isle of Wight in September, 1876; and Mr. G. Orby Sloper, formerly of West Woodhay, has written us that a kite that he saw migrating three autumns running in Hants and Berks, was killed at Ham, in Wiltshire, in 1876.

Mr. Chalkley has recorded a very fine specimen from Lower Lanham, near Alresford, in January, 1890.

GENUS—*Pernis*.

135. *Pernis apivorus*. Honey-Buzzard.

A scarce summer visitor to the New Forest; elsewhere in the county and Isle of Wight an occasional visitor on migration.

This species is perhaps the most interesting of our Hampshire birds, on account of its having been found, in former years, more commonly in this county than in any other part of England; but, having gained notoriety from being known as a regular summer visitor to the New

¹ "New Forest." 1862.

Forest, it was much sought after there by collectors, and has been by now nearly exterminated. The fact, however, of its arriving at the end of May and beginning of June, when the trees are fully out in leaf, may help to preserve longer the stragglers which still continue to visit that district, and all that can possibly be done to protect it is done by the Hon. Gerald Lascelles, and special watchers are even appointed to watch over any which may appear and show a disposition to nest in the Forest.

Of a bird that is so interesting, and which is even now on the verge of extinction in the county, we have considered it advisable to collect all the information possible, and have therefore quoted at some length from various writers.

The historic nest in Gilbert White's Selborne is thus described in letter xliii. to Pennant. "A pair of honey-buzzards, *Buteo apivorus sive vespivorus*, Raii, built them a large shallow nest, composed of twigs and lined with dead beechen leaves, upon a tall slender beech near the middle of Selborne Hanger, in the summer of 1780. In the middle of the month of June a bold boy climbed this tree, though standing on so steep and dizzy a situation, and brought down an egg, the only one in the nest, which had been sat on for some time, and contained the embryo of a young bird. The egg was smaller, and not so round as those of the common buzzard; was dotted at each end with small red spots, and surrounded in the middle with a broad bloody zone.

The hen bird was shot, and answered exactly to Mr. Ray's description of that species; had a black cere, short thick legs, and a long tail. When on the wing this species may be easily distinguished from the common

buzzard by its hawk-like appearance, small head, wings not so blunt, and longer tail. This specimen contained in its craw some limbs of frogs and many gray snails without shells. The *irides* of the eyes of this bird were of a beautiful bright yellow colour."

We read in his MS. Journal :—" June, 1781, the male still haunts about the hanger, and on sunny mornings soars above the hill to inhale the coolness of the upper air." And on September 12th, 1787 :—" A pair of honey buzzards appear to have young in the hanger. The honey buzzard is a fine hawk, and skims about in a majestic manner."

In his " Observations on Birds " he writes :—" . . . I have often wondered that the accurate Mr. Ray should call one species of buzzard, *Buteo apivorus sive vespivorus*, the honey buzzard, because some combs of wasps happened to be found in one of their nests. The combs were conveyed thither doubtless, for the sake of the maggots or nymphs, and not for their honey, since none is to be found in the combs of wasps." With regard to this observation Markwick remarks that Ray expressly says that " it feeds on insects, and brings up its young with the maggots or nymphs of wasps."

The description of the honey-buzzard in Montagu's Ornithological Dictionary (1802), is from a specimen, supposed to have been a female, which was killed in Highclere Park ; it was skimming over a piece of water when shot.

In Lord Malmesbury's collection at Heron Court there is a specimen which was shot at Park Place in 1810 ; there were two seen, probably male and female, but only this one procured.

Wise in his " New Forest ; its History and its Scenery,"

(1862), gives the following complete description of this species :

“ The honey buzzard, however (*Falco apivorus*), comes regularly over from Germany about the end of May, attracted in some measure, perhaps, by its favourite food, the larvæ of wasps and bees, but chiefly by the wide range of the woods. At Mark Ash and Puckpits I have frequently, for an hour together, watched a couple, sailing with their wings outspread, allowing the wind, on a boisterous day, to catch them, till it almost veered them over, just circling round the tops of the beeches, sometimes even ‘tumbling,’ like a pigeon, and answering each other with their sharp short cry, prolonged every now and then into a melancholy wail. Its favourite breeding stations are amongst the tall beech-woods round Lyndhurst, in Mark Ash and Gibbs’ Hill, Puckpits, Coalmeer, Prior’s Acre, and the oaks of Bentley and Sloden. The nest is always placed in the old one of a crow, or even the common buzzard, whose young by that time have flown, and sometimes made on the top of a squirrel’s ‘cage,’ the birds contenting themselves with only re-shaping it, and lining the inside with fresh green leaves. The fact of a squirrel’s ‘cage’ being used, will account for the nest being sometimes found so low, and on a comparatively small tree. No rule can therefore be laid down as to its position. I have known this bird build in very different situations. Mr. Rake found its nest at Sloden, on the forked bough of a low oak, not thirty feet from the ground. In 1860, a pair built, not very much higher, in the overhanging branch of a beech in Puckpit ; and, in the same year, another pair reared their young on the top of a fir in Holmy Ridge Hill. And in 1861 and 1862, I knew of two nests not fifty yards apart, in Mark Ash, each placed

nearly at the top of the very tallest beeches in the wood, at least seventy or eighty feet from the ground. As so little appears to be known about its breeding habits, I may as well add a few words.

It seldom arrives till the beginning of June, when the leaves are thick on the trees, and immediately commences its nest, for which purpose it seems only to come, as it immediately departs when the young birds can fly. Pairs have been known, however, not to lay till the end of July; and, I am assured by one of the Forest keepers, not sometimes till the beginning of August; but these are, doubtless, cases where the birds have been robbed of their first eggs. It differs from the common buzzard in not flying away when disturbed during incubation, but merely skimming round the top of the tree in small circles, uttering its short, shrill cry, sometimes both male and female perching on the branch of a neighbouring tree, and remaining undisturbed by shouts and cries, whilst the nest is being reached. At these times a kind of stupidity seizes the bird. It has, to my knowledge, on several occasions, remained in the nest till a boy has touched its feathers, and returned as soon as he left.

As a further illustration, I may add, that in one of the nests before mentioned, in Mark Ash (June 7th, 1862), was only one egg, which was taken. The birds, however, did not forsake, and another, which was also taken, was laid on the third day.

Even then the birds did not desert, but after the interval of two more days laid a third egg, about one-half smaller than usual, and in shape somewhat resembling a peregrine's." (See under Farren.)

"On another occasion, June 11th, 1859, a pair bred in a high beech in Coalmeer Wood, near Stoney Cross, and

though fired at more than once did not desert. The female, however, was first shot, when the cock, nothing daunted, took his partner's place, and sat on the eggs, and a day or two afterwards shared her fate. In the nest were two eggs, which, with the exception before mentioned, I have never known exceeded. Those in my collection vary in colouring from the light dull vermilion, which so often characterizes the merlin's eggs, to a deep rich marone, tinted, especially in newly-taken specimens, with a delicate crimson bloom."

The weights of two fresh-laid eggs, taken June 16th, from a nest in a low fork of an oak tree in Anses Wood were respectively 1 oz. 3 dr. 1 scr. 5 grs. and 1 oz. 2 drs. 2 scr. 10 grs. And two, very much addled and hard set, from a nest which had been deserted, taken on June 24th, in Ravensnest Wood, near Brook, in the higher branches of a tall beech, overhanging the road, weighed 1 oz. 4 dr. 0 scr. 10 grs. and 1 oz. 3 dr. 2 scr. 10 grs.

"The birds are not much seen in the day, but generally early in the morning. Whilst the hen bird sits on the eggs, the cock perches close by in some tall thick tree. Perhaps from this very affection for their young arises their seeming stupidity, and the ease with which they are killed. Some years ago a keeper found a nest with two young birds in Bentley Wood, and on purpose to secure them tied them by their legs to a small tree, where the old birds regularly came and fed them. But the strangest fact with regard to their breeding is that before they finally decide upon a nest they will line several with green leaves and small leafy twigs. Lastly I may add that though I have examined many nests, I have never found any traces of their being, as is related by some writers, lined with wool. If there was any wool it was probably placed there by the bird which had previously inhabited the nest."

In the "Zoologist" for 1862, W. Farren writes from Cambridge ("Note on the breeding of the Honey-Buzzard in the New Forest")—"I took a nest of this rare bird on the 21st June, 1859, and the female bird was shot as she rose from the nest. The nest was placed in the fork of an oak tree not more than twenty-five or thirty feet from the ground. I was informed by the gamekeeper that two or three years before the nest was a crow's, but on his shooting the rightful owner a pair of buzzards took to the nest, and had repaired it from year to year since. At the time I took the eggs the bottom part appeared very old, but had been repaired and lined with fresh green leaves of oak and beech. The old bird on leaving the nest went off very much in the style of a heron with the same heavy flapping sort of flight. On the hen bird being shot, the male, who was flying over the trees in the immediate neighbourhood, rose to a great height in the air and kept hovering and flying round in circles, uttering a loud note similar to the common buzzard but somewhat hoarser. I obtained another pair of eggs in the same month and year. Last year I obtained another pair, and this year I have five eggs, three from one nest and two from the other. The three eggs were taken at intervals of three days between each; the first, a large and fine coloured, though rather pale egg, was taken on the 7th of June; the next, a smaller and darker egg, on the 10th; the third, a very small and peculiarly coloured egg, on the 13th." (These are evidently the eggs referred to above by Wise.)

"The nest of two eggs were taken on the 17th June, and are very dark and similar in shape to those of the peregrine; and since my return home Mr. J. R. Wise has obtained two pairs of eggs, which he has sent me, together with an egg of the merlin, to blow for him."

Reeks, in the "Zoologist," 1864, notes that a pair built a nest in the New Forest, in 1863, but did not lay.

In the Alton Museum are two specimens from the New Forest, presented by Curtis in 1858, one a very fine, dark specimen, and the other in paler plumage.

The Gurney collection in Norwich Museum contains a nestling from the New Forest.

In the Hart collection are a pair of birds and their eggs procured on June 8th, 1860, and an immature specimen on September 20th, 1875, from the New Forest.

Dr. Rake, of Fordingbridge, has in his possession an interesting collection of honey-buzzards and their eggs, concerning which he has kindly assisted us with particulars. One case contains an adult honey-buzzard (and a rough-legged buzzard) with two young about a week old, which were taken near Cadnam in 1866, by a man named Jack Peckham, who addressed the following epistle to Haydon, taxidermist, of Fordingbridge, from whom the specimens were purchased by Dr. Rake:—

"Cadnam, Totton,
July 17th, 1866.

Sir,—I know of two young honey bussards about a week old and what can you give for them and likewise the old ons send an answer by return of post and you will oblige

Yours obediently,
JACK PECKHAM."

Another case contains an adult pair with two young, probably three weeks old, one young bird being much larger than the other—and these were taken at Sloden also in 1866.

Of the eggs Dr. Rake has allowed us to make the following extracts from his father's catalogue—two, taken at South Bentley, Eyeworth Walk, by J. Peckham, June 10th, 1865.

Two others from Mark Ash, Boldrewood, taken by Mr. Cooper, June 14th, 1865.

One taken in Bramshaw Wood, July 2nd, 1864, by Cooper; and another taken in the New Forest in June, 1856, had been sent to Mr. Harting; the latter specimen has this remark—"Two eggs, one broken by boy in getting down from tree,—visited the tree and saw the remains of the nest, August 4th, 1856."

Mr. Harting in his "Handbook of British Birds" says he has seen eggs of the honey-buzzard from the New Forest taken at the following places and dates:—Two, South Bradley, 3rd June, 1870; two Crookley Enclosure, 7th June, 1871; and two, Stoney Cross, 17th June, 1872, besides others taken in previous years.

The young were hatched there as lately as 1895."

Mr. W. H. Turle has a specimen in his collection from the New Forest, dated 1860.

The above records go to prove what Mr. Meade-Waldo in the "Victoria History of Hants" says, that "The principal war of extermination was between the years 1860 and 1870. But in the year 1880, when the Hon. Gerald Lascelles became Deputy Surveyor, a different state of affairs commenced, and all that could be done was done to preserve the honey buzzard, and the remainder of the interesting inhabitants of the forest; for this particular bird it seems to have been too late, and I do not know myself of a single authentic case of its having bred since that date. I have carefully looked out for it year after year, and though I have pretty frequently seen individuals, I have never but once seen one that made me think that there might possibly have been a nest, and that was in July, 1895, when on several occasions I saw one frequenting the same part of the Forest, which invariably took the same flight. . . .

A female that had bred was shot in Brockenhurst

Park in 1887, and Mr. Hart, of Christchurch, assures me that he knew an authentic case of a pair nesting in 1894."

Mr. Corbin, of Ringwood, purchased a freshly-killed specimen from a gipsy in that town in the summer of 1903, which had been procured in the Forest.

In the Isle of Wight it has rarely occurred ; Bury, in the "Zoologist" for 1844, says that Mr. Robert Loe once disturbed what he supposed to be a common buzzard, plundering a wasp's nest, but which is inferred was really a honey-buzzard.

Dr. Cowper, in the "Hants Court Guide," records one shot near Sandown by Mr. H. Jacobs while it was in the act of plundering a wasp's nest. The date was October 7th, 1878. Other occurrences in the county have been noted at Titchfield, where one was killed in October, 1888, reported by Careless, lately a bird-stuffer at Landport ; and one at Wherwell in March, 1879, mentioned in the Report of the Winchester College Natural History Society for 1881.

GENUS—*Falco*.

136. *Falco peregrinus*. Peregrine Falcon.

"My princess of the cloud, my plumed purveyor,
My far-eyed queen of the winds—thou that canst soar
Beyond the morning lark, and howsoe'er
Thy quarry wind and wheel, swoop down upon him
Eagle-like, lightning-like-strike, make his feathers
Glance in mid-heaven."

Tennyson's "The Falcon."

A scarce resident, confined to the Isle of Wight.

This species is now reduced to one pair nesting annually



PEREGRINE FALCON.

From a Drawing by Mr. G. E. Lodge.

in the Freshwater Cliffs, and another pair occasionally attempting to breed in the Culver Cliffs in the Isle of Wight; and considering the ruthless persecution they undergo, in spite of their being protected by the bye-laws of the Isle of Wight County Council, it is a wonder that any still survive. It is very doubtful if they ever succeed in bringing off a brood of young.

As an occasional visitor it occurs in every part of the county, usually in winter, and cannot be considered at all an uncommon bird.

The Isle of Wight eyries were long ago famous for their breed of hawks, and in 1564 the following curious warrant was issued to Richard Worsley, Esq., who was Captain of the Island, authorising him to search for the persons who had stolen from their nest the young hawks, which were the property of Queen Elizabeth:—

“Warrant to Richard Worsley Esq. Captain of the Isle of Wight, and al. to search for Queen Elizabeth’s Hawks in the Isle of Wight, which were stolen. Dated 6th of June, 1564.

After or hartly Commendacons We be enformed that certaine of the Queenes Ma^{ts}. Hawks have been lately stolen in the Isle of Wight, from the Place where they bred upon her Ma^{ts} own Lande, and that hitherto the officers canot learne what hath becom of them.

Thies be therefore to will and requyre yo^u on the Queenes Ma^{ts} behalf that upon the sight hereof ye make diligent Enquyry and Examynacon, both for the Hawks and for the Persons faultie of this Stealth and psumptious Attempt, and upon fynding of the Hawks ye shall cause them to be delyvered to such Office as doth now repayre unto you with thies or Lres for that purpose. And touching the malefactor^s Ye shall comyt them to Warde, signifieng yo^r whole Pceeding & Examinacon unto us, that thereupon ye may receave furdre Direction as the Case shall requyre, and if it shall com to y^r knowledge that Either the Pties in fault have conveyed themselves or the Hawks out of the Compasse of yo^r Authorities, Ye shall by virtue hereof in that Case, addresse yo^r Lres to some Gentlemen of Repu-

tacon, and Credit of the Contrey where such Conveyance is made, that the Tenor of thies or Lres may be by them Accomplished in Forme as is before p^rscribed unto you for the said Isle, Whereof we pray you not to faile, Thus fare you hartly well.

From Rychmonde the 6th of June, 1564.

Yor Loving Friends,

W. NORTH.	PEMBROKE.
R. DUDDLEY.	W. HOWARD.
C. NOYE.	W. CECILL.

To or Loving Friends RYCHARD WORSLEY, Esq.,
Captⁿ of the Isle of Wight, & al."

("History of the Isle of Wight," by Sir Richard Worsley, 1781. Appendix, No. LXXXV., p. clvii.)

Though this document does not state in which cliff the eyrie was, Worsley in another part of the same work says:—"The northern side of Bembridge is low land; but adjoining to Yaverland is a steep chalk cliff, called Culver Cliff—(Culver, from the Saxon 'culppe,' a pigeon; and the number of these birds that harbour there well entitle it to the name of Pigeon Cliff)—formerly famous for a breed of hawks. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth an order was issued to search for some of them which had been stolen."

Cornish says ("The New Forest and Isle of Wight," 1895) that the same eyrie supplied falcons to the gentry in the island in the days of James I., for Mr. George Oglander "had a lanorett that was bred in ye White Cliff on Bembridge which was ye best hawk with ye worst lookinge to, that wase in England; for they never took care of her, but gave her meat in ye foote, scarce evor tyed her, but let her scratch for bones with ye dogges; and when they came afield they cast her off, and she would follow ye dogges and kill whatsoever did rise partriche, phesant, bitteron, hearon, hare or coney."

He also says that there is no place on the English coast where the falcon can be seen so easily as on the White Cliff at Bembridge. He, "has visited it some twenty times, and never missed seeing one or a pair of these representatives of what is perhaps the oldest family remaining in the island."

Warner also ("History of the Isle of Wight," 1795), mentions that the "Culver Cliffs were in some degree of repute, from their producing in great abundance a small species of hawk, of great strength and spirit, much used in sporting for partridges, and other birds of equal or inferior size. As this amusement is, however, now obsolete, the breed which still continues is allowed to build its aerial nest and pursue its depredations on young game, pigeons, etc., without molestation. I take it to be the *Falco nisus* of Linnæus"; but, of course, he was wrong in the identification of the species.

In Bury's time ("Zoologist," 1844), it was "known to breed regularly at four different points along our coast: on Main Bench, between Freshwater and the Needles, as mentioned by Mr. Yarrell, its eyrie has been established for many years; and the same may be said of the Culver Cliffs, at the eastern extremity of the island. On the cliffs to the westward of Shanklin Chine it has been observed for seven or eight years, and a fourth pair has been long settled in the neighbourhood of Blackgang Chine. A fifth eyrie is, I think, to be found in Chale Bay, but I cannot positively assert it."

He also states that the pair nesting on Freshwater Cliffs were, before 1839, for fourteen years successively robbed of their young.

More ("Natural History of the Isle of Wight," 1860), also mentions their having for long nested at the Fresh-

water and Culver Cliffs, as well as in the Undercliff, and being even then much persecuted.

Mr. Meade-Waldo ("Victoria History of Hants") says it also attempts to nest occasionally on St. Catherine's Point.

To return to the mainland. In 1767 Gilbert White procured one from the parish of Faringdon: "It haunted a marshy piece of ground in quest of wild ducks and snipes; but, when it was shot, had just knocked down a rook, which it was tearing in pieces. I cannot make it answer to any of our English hawks; neither could I find any like it at the curious exhibition of stuffed birds in Spring Gardens. I found it nailed up to the end of a barn, which is the countryman's museum."¹

In the next letter to Pennant² he says: "It will not be without impatience that I shall wait for your thoughts with regard to the *Falco*. As to its weight, breadth, etc., I wish I had set them down at the time; but to the best of my remembrance it weighed two pounds and eight ounces, and measured from wing to wing 38 inches. Its cere and feet were yellow, and the circles of its eyelids a bright yellow. As it had been killed some days, and the eyes were sunk, I could make no good observations on the colour of the pupils and the irides."

Pennant described this specimen in his "Zoology" under the Peregrine Falcon, word for word as Gilbert White wrote, but with this addition: "The whole under side of the body was of a deep dirty yellow, but the black bars were the same as in that above described." He evidently considered it uncommon.³

¹ Letter x. to Pennant. August 4th, 1767.

² Letter xi. to Pennant. Selborne. Sept. 9th, 1767.

³ Letter xii. to Pennant. Nov. 4th, 1767.

Later White wrote¹ to Barrington concerning this and another specimen: "One of the keepers of Wolmer Forest sent me a peregrine falcon, which he shot on the verge of that district as it was devouring a wood-pigeon. . . . It measured 42 inches from wing to wing, and 21 from beak to tail, and weighed two pounds and a half standing weight."

He was quite unaware that it was a resident species on the coast, but supposed that it "was driven from the mountains of North Wales or Scotland, where they are known to breed, by rigorous weather and deep snows that had lately fallen."

Colonel Hawker in his "Diary" calls this species by the name of Goshawk, and it is even now not infrequently known by that name.

Numerous specimens have been procured in all parts of the county, and we have not thought it necessary to give all the occurrences, but it is probably more common in the south of the county than in the north.

Munn saw one on January 14th, 1905, flying over Boscombe, low down above the buildings near the Arcade, and in the direction of the Isle of Wight.

137. *Falco subbuteo*. Hobby.

A regular summer visitor to all wooded districts in the county, arriving in May and departing as soon as the young are reared.

It is a rare visitor, but is probably considered rarer than it really is, as it does not arrive until the trees

¹ Letter lvii. to Barrington.

are well out in leaf, and departs before the fall ; and as it frequents the wooded parts of the county it more easily escapes notice during the summer.

In the Isle of Wight it has not been found nesting, and such rare occurrences as have been noted there have usually been in the autumn, whence it may be inferred that it only visits the island on migration.

On another page we have given our reasons for believing that the nest described by Gilbert White (in his forty-third Letter to Pennant), as that of a sparrowhawk, really belonged to a bird of this species.

Colonel Irby, writing to Kelsall in 1889, said the hobby nested every year on the east side of the county.

Mr. Armistead in the "Zoologist" (February, 1898) relates that a pair nested and hatched their young in a magpie's nest, near Stockbridge, "many years ago," one of the young birds being taken and reared, and kept as a pet for many years.

On June 2nd, 1884, four eggs were taken from a nest in a beech tree on the road half way between Andover and Winchester ; in 1885 a nest with three eggs was found at Botley ; in 1890 three young ones, just out of the nest, were shot in Doles Wood, near Andover, and on May 27th, 1892, a female was shot on her nest in the same wood and her eggs broken beneath her.

Munn found a pair nesting in an old nest in an oak tree in a wood near North Oakley in 1894, and on June 12th, there were three eggs ; he watched the pair of old birds for some time in the vicinity of the nest. In the following year the pair were nesting in an adjoining wood, and again three eggs were found in an old nest in an oak on June 17th.

Three young ones were taken from a crow's nest near

Basingstoke in 1897, which were reared with the object of training them for falconry (Horsburgh, "Zoologist," 1898).

On May 10th, 1899, four eggs were taken from a nest in Worthy Groves, near Winchester.

It has also been known to visit Hurstbourne Park in the summer for nesting purposes.

In the New Forest, Wise¹ says it is known as "the van-winged hawk,"—"comes about the same time as the honey buzzard, building in the old, deserted nests of crows and magpies, and even, as in this case, to my knowledge, in that of the honey buzzard. The bird, however, is becoming scarce. For several years I have known a pair or two build in Buckhill Wood, but last year none came. It lays generally about the beginning of June, though I have received its eggs as late as July 12th, but Mr. Farren, in 1861, found a nest containing three eggs so early as May 28th."

Dr. Rake's collection contains specimens of the eggs, and his catalogue shows—"Taken in Bramshaw Wood, New Forest, July 2nd, 1864, by Cooper, three eggs in nest, two broken by trapping the female bird on the nest.

Three eggs taken by Mr. Wise in Prior's Acre, near Stoney Cross, June 21st, 1862. The nest placed in an oak tree had been used by a honey buzzard in 1861, and had three eggs."

There is also a note of another clutch, "Taken by Cooper, of Fritham, much incubated, from one nest in Ocknell Wood, New Forest, July, 1863."

In the "Victoria History of Hants," Mr. Meade-Waldo says:—"For many years hobbies seem to have avoided

¹ "New Forest," 1862.

the Forest, and I am not aware of a pair having successfully reared their young since 1886, when I saw a brood of flying young ones close to Ipley Farm."

In 1893 Turle took five eggs from a nest at Ipley on June 18th; and again, on June 17th, 1894, found a nest at the same place with three eggs.

Mr. Corbin has numerous records of its occurrence in the New Forest; in the "Zoologist" for 1893 he relates that one was killed near Ringwood in June, 1893, and a pair nested there the following year, but one of this pair was unfortunately killed in August. On June 1st, 1904, one was seen in a wood on the borders of the Forest, and at the end of May in the same year one was killed near Lymington.

Mr. Corbin has always emphasised the fact that this species feeds frequently in the dusk, and he has watched them chasing the dor-beetles in the gathering gloom; but, if further proof were needed, he had a specimen in August, 1904, which had the remains of a bat in its stomach, and the wings of the animal were found sticking in its throat. It was shot in the dusk by a duck-shooter.

There are numerous recent records of the bird's occurrence in the summer from most parts of the county, and few collections are without examples of this species.

In the Isle of Wight, Bury ("Zoologist," 1844) says it is occasionally seen, but has not been ascertained to breed; a male was shot in the Landslip in October, 1841, and a pair shot some years ago in the heart of the island, also in autumn.

Mr. Willett has a pair, which may perhaps be those referred to above by Bury.

138. *Falco æsalon.* Merlin.

A scarce winter visitor to the county ; has been known to remain to nest. Also occurs in the Isle of Wight.

The bird is most frequently observed on the open downland of the northern part of the county, the heathlands of the New Forest, and the flat parts of the coast.

Wise¹ says : " In the winter this little hawk is sometimes seen hunting . . . the snipe, although but few specimens find their way to the bird-stuffer. It lingers on, however, to the summer, but the opportunities then of watching its habits are more rare, as the foliage of the woods is so thick. In 1859 and 1861, Mr. Farren received two nests with three eggs, taken in old pollard hollies growing in the open heath, which in every way corresponded with those of the merlin, being considerably smaller than those of kestrels. Unfortunately, however, he could not procure the parent birds, and the fact of the merlin's nesting remained doubtful. In 1862 he was at last successful, and on May 22nd discovered a nest, placed in the hole of a yew, also containing, like the others, three eggs, from which the male bird was shot. . . . As the instances of the breeding of the merlin, especially under these circumstances, will always be very rare, I may as well add my own personal observations. In the spring of 1861, I received three eggs taken not far from the Knightwood Oak, and said to have been found in the hole of a beech. As I am not in the habit of paying any attention to the mere stories which are so plentiful, I did not, therefore, examine them with any attention, and put them aside as merely kestrel's. After,

¹ "New Forest."

however, Mr. Farren's communication to me, I looked out particularly for this little hawk, but only once saw it in the open ground, near Warwickslade Cutting, from where it flew up, perching for a moment on a holly, and then making off to the woods. On June 4th, however, I observed a hen bird fly out of a hole, about twenty feet from the ground, in an old beech in Woolstone's Hill, on the east side of Halliday's Hill Enclosure. There were, however, no eggs. On the fifth, I went again, and the bird, when I was about fifty yards from the tree, again flew off. Still there were no eggs. I did not return till the 9th, when the nest, now pulled out of the hole, had been robbed. It was made of small sticks, and a considerable quantity of feather-moss, and some fine grass I afterwards learnt where the three eggs had been taken in 1861; but there was nothing, with the exception of a few sticks in the hole, which was in this case about ten feet from the ground, and placed also in a beech on the edge of Barrowsmoor."

He also compares the weight of a supposed merlin's egg with kestrel's—"Egg, supposed to be that of a merlin, taken with two others which were broken, June 17th, 1862, near Alum Green, in the hole of a beech, rather sat upon, weighed 4 dr. 1 sc. 10 gr. Two fresh-laid eggs of kestrels, taken at the same time, weighed 4 dr. 2 sc. 15 gr. Other eggs of kestrels, however, have weighed considerably more; and two others, also laid about the same time, came to 5 dr. 0 sc. 5 gr." This last-mentioned merlin's egg is in Dr. Rake's collection at Fordingbridge; as also are the three procured in May, 1862, with the skin of the male bird, which was shot off them; and also the remains of a nest from a hollow holly tree. Dr. Rake has kindly allowed us to see these and compare with his father's note-book the dates given by Wise.

Colonel Hawker in his "Diary" on January 26th, 1842, at Keyhaven "made a most brilliant shot at a merlin hawk that flew over me as swift as an arrow, and though at least fifty yards, I cut him down as dead as a stone with snipe shot."

In the "Zoologist" for 1895, Mr. Corbin notes a female killed on the 27th of December, in the New Forest, whilst in the act of striking at a partridge; he also remarks, that he has only once seen the bird (a male) in the summer months in the Forest.

In the Hart collection are specimens procured in February, 1876; November, 1879; November, 1880; January and February, 1881.

The Alton Museum contains two specimens from the district.

Munn saw one near Whitchurch on December 28th, 1886, and specimens have also been seen in the neighbourhood of Stockbridge Downs, on Bransbury Common, and near North Litchfield, all in the winter.

On May 28th, 1887, Mr. W. H. Turle took a nest in Doles Wood, to the north of Andover, with three eggs; and the old birds nested there again later in the same year, and hatched four young ones.

In 1888, a nest was reported to have been taken at Stubbington, near Fareham.

Mr. Corbin records in the "Zoologist" for 1893, that the male of a pair was shot near Ringwood on September 4th, 1893.

Mr. Meade-Waldo¹ has noticed it in the neighbourhood of Basingstoke in the winter.

In the Isle of Wight, Bury says² it is seen occasionally during the winter, but more frequently in the autumn.

¹ "Victoria History of Hants." ² *Zoologist*." 1844.

Dr. Cowper¹ has seen it once on Shanklin Down in winter, and Wadham records a pair shot many years ago in the Island.

GENUS—*Tinnunculus*.

139. *Tinnunculus vespertinus*. Red-footed Falcon.

A rare accidental visitor from Southern and Eastern Europe and Western Asia.

The first recorded Hampshire specimen was a male procured at Parley, near Christchurch, in 1854, and now in the Hart collection. Parley parish runs into Dorsetshire, but Mr. Hart informs us that the bird was killed on our side of the border.

The second example is a female in the possession of Mr. Harting, who tells us that it was shot by Mr. Horace Leggatt, of Titchfield, in October, 1875, and sent to the office of the "Field" in the flesh.

The third is mentioned by Messrs. D'Urban and Mathew, in their "Birds of Devon," as having been shot at Fordingbridge, in January, 1877.

The last is a female shot by Mr. Brewer at Tuckton, near Christchurch, on May 16th, 1882, and now in Mr. Hart's collection.

This species was accidentally omitted from Mr. Meade-Waldo's list in the "Victoria History of Hants."

¹ "Hants Court Guide."

140. *Tinnunculus alaudarius.* Kestrel.

WINDHOVER. FANNER.

A common resident in all parts of the county and Isle of Wight.

This bird is to be found nesting in a variety of situations, but most frequently in the old nests of crows, magpies, or squirrels. Sometimes it chooses the bare hollow of a limb where it joins the trunk, and its eggs are not uncommonly found in hollow trees. Old buildings, churches, and ruins, are also selected, and in the Isle of Wight particularly, it nests plentifully in the cliffs along the whole coast line. Mr. Poole says that in the southern and south-eastern sides of the Island it seldom builds in trees, the Undercliff, Landslip, and Culvers providing ideal nesting places.

Mr. W. H. Turle once procured a pure white egg from a nest near Andover, and a clutch of eight eggs from near King's Somborne.

Munn has known one to lay again in the same nest shortly after the first clutch had been taken.

A tame bird at Testcombe once laid in the garden there. Its numbers, no doubt, are considerably increased in spring and autumn by migrants, as both Mr. Meade-Waldo and Dr. Cowper have noted also.

141. *Tinnunculus cenchris*. Lesser Kestrel.

A very rare accidental visitor from Southern Europe and Northern Africa.

We are informed by Mr. V. Willett, of Whitwell, in the Isle of Wight, that a bird of this species, a male, was shot at Carisbrooke on November 25th, 1895, and is now in his possession.

Another specimen, a female, was picked up dead on Samborough Hill, near Shorwell, in the Isle of Wight, on April 11th, 1903, by Mr. Newnham, of the Post Office, Shorwell, in whose possession it now is.

We are much indebted to Mr. Wadham, of Newport, for having, in the first instance, given us information of the whereabouts of these rare specimens, both of which had passed through his hands, and they are the only instances of the occurrence of this bird known in the county.

GENUS—*Pandion*.

142. *Pandion haliaëtus*. Osprey.

FISH-HAWK. MULLET-HAWK.

A regular, though scarce, visitor in spring and autumn to the coasts of the mainland and Isle of Wight.

It occurs occasionally inland, in the vicinity of some large river or piece of water.

It is probably most often to be observed on the estuary of the river at Christchurch, and in Mr. Hart's collection are specimens procured in 1862 and 1870.

In the "Zoologist" for 1889, Mr. Hart records a male shot at Christchurch on November 10th, 1888, and says: "the examples procured are invariably killed in the early morning as they come from their roost to the water; always taking the same course each day, the gunners soon know where to lie in wait. They either select the trees at High Cliff or those on Ramsdown Hill as their roosting-place." He also records another observed there several times in the autumn of 1891 ("Zoologist," 1891).

Kelsall saw one from the Barton Cliffs on September 10th, 1897, and Munn saw two on Hengistbury Head on October 2nd, 1898.

Mr. Corbin records one procured at Fordingbridge in October, 1901 ("Zoologist," 1901); and there is a pair in the Earl of Malmesbury's collection at Heron Court from the district.

In the Alton Museum is a specimen procured at Lasham.

It has also occurred at Fleet Pond (Reid, "Zoologist," 1872), and Mr. Stares, of Portchester, saw one in Portsmouth Harbour on September 6th, 1893 ("Zoologist," 1894).

In the Isle of Wight, More says it has been seen at Bembridge on September 10th, 1856, and also in Brading Harbour on May 2nd, 1859.

Dr. Cowper ("Hants Court Guide") says: "it may very occasionally be observed on our shores on the spring and autumn migration."

ORDER—STEGANOPODES.

FAMILY—*Pelecanidæ*.GENUS—*Phalacrocorax*.**143. *Phalacrocorax carbo*. Cormorant.**

ISLE OF WIGHT PARSON.

A common resident on the coast ; nesting, however, only in the Isle of Wight, in some numbers on the Culvers, and on the Freshwater and Needles Cliffs.

Warner gives in his "History of the Isle of Wight" a curious description of the habits of this bird—"vulgarly called in these parts the 'Isle of Wight parson.'"

"It builds in, and inhabits the immense precipices of Freshwater, for the better part of the year. During the winter, however, the voracious plunderer may be seen pursuing his depredations in the rivers and creeks for many miles around. Here the solitary savage is on the perpetual watch for prey ; tortured with unquenchable hunger, occasioned by a multitude of worms, which inhabit his inside, and, like the dogs in Milton's Sin, would make his bowels their repast, did he not supply their voracity by unceasing repletion. For this purpose, the miserable glutton is seen continually diving after the fish, which his piercing eye can discern at a great depth in the water ; or perched on some solitary elevation, enjoying a temporary respite from labour and the attacks of his internal enemies. During these moments of idleness and ease, he is often seated on a lofty tree ; a situation somewhat singular for a waterfowl, and which, indeed (according to the observation of Aristotle),

the cormorant alone, of all birds of that class, makes use of Nature seems to have intended a check upon human gluttony by rendering those quadrupeds and birds, which are most remarkable for an intemperate indulgence of the appetite, the most hateful and offensive. The cormorant is a proof of this, than which bird no other is more voracious in feeding, nor, at the same time, more disagreeable in person, detestable in smell, or disgusting in manners."

Gilpin, in his description of the Beaulieu River ("Forest Scenery") describes the cormorant there as it sat "watching the ebbing tide . . . his stand on some solitary post, set up to point the channel of the river."

Colonel Hawker frequently made expeditions to the Needles and the Freshwater Cliffs from Keyhaven for the purpose of shooting cormorants, or, as he called it, "lowering a parson"; and the "reverend devourers" were considered by him difficult birds to kill, from their wariness, and from the quantity of shot it took to bring one down.

It frequently strays inland, ascending the rivers for some distance, and visiting inland pieces of water in search of food; and it has occurred at Wolmer, Ringwood, Alresford, Winchester, Laverstoke, etc., the eels which inhabit these fresh waters being the chief attraction.

In 1867 Frank Buckland related¹ that "he enjoyed the privilege of seeing Captain Salvin's cormorants work in the River Test. The miller put down his hatches for the cormorants to work in the pool. The birds had not been in the pool a moment before we saw them hunting a large fish round and round under water; the fish was so large they could not swallow it, and there was a regular set-to under

¹ "Life of Frank Buckland," by G. C. Bompas. 1886.

water (like a steam-engine gone mad at the bottom of the river) between the 'Detective' and 'Hoang Ho' (the cormorants) and the fish. I could stand it no longer, so I jumped into the water, and went to the assistance of the birds. The birds and myself had two or three good courses, and at last the poor hunted fish took refuge under some boards, which formed the apron below the hatches. 'Hoang Ho' kept pecking at him with his beak, but could not reach him. I then went in still deeper into the water, and caught the fish in my hands, a greyling weighing nearly 3 lbs. . . . The only person not pleased was the miller, who said 'he never see'd three such poachers in his life in the water together, as them long-necked birds with straps round their necks, and the gent as ought to have a strap round his'n.'"

The illustration of this species in Yarrell's "British Birds" represents two birds which were killed in the Isle of Wight.

144. *Phalacrocorax graculus*. Shag.

GREEN CORMORANT.

A resident on the coast, but not common.

It nests very sparingly on the Freshwater Cliffs, in the Isle of Wight, and, as Mr. Woods, of Sandown, informs us, probably nests also on the Culvers, the birds being always there.

In Bury's time it bred on the Needles, but was not nearly as common as the common cormorant.¹

More in 1860² considered it "one of the rarest resi-

¹ "Zoologist." 1845.

² "Birds of the Isle of Wight."

dent sea-birds which inhabit the cliffs of the Isle of Wight during the summer. It is even doubtful whether it any longer breeds at Freshwater"; but Hadfield in the "Zoologist" for 1884, says that several pairs bred in the Freshwater Cliffs in 1883.

We think that Wise¹ confused the two species, and means the common cormorant alone when he writes that "the shag and the cormorant were the commonest birds along the south-east coast of the Forest in Gilpin's time"; and Colonel Hawker in his "Diary" on August 6th, 1827, describes a chase which "no Leicestershire fox-hunt on record could surpass" that he had with "the shag, *alias* cormorant, *alias* 'parson,'" and here he undoubtedly refers to the shag, which he calls also a "green cormorant" a few lines before.

It very rarely strays inland to fresh water, but has wandered to Alton (J. Curtis) and to Ringwood (Corbin).

In the Winchester College collection is a specimen in breeding plumage from Bursledon, 1899.

The Isle of Wight is the most easterly breeding-station known for this species on the south coast.

GENUS—*Sula*.

145. *Sula bassana*. Gannet.

A winter visitor to all the coasts of the county and Isle of Wight, sometimes plentiful, according to the supply of food.

It occasionally wanders inland, an immature specimen

¹ "New Forest."

being procured at Romsey in December, 1888, (Corbin); another at East Tisted on December 12th, 1896, (Smith, "Zoologist," 1897); and one at Sutton Scotney.

Dr. Cowper¹ records a fine adult shot two miles or more inland from Sandown Bay.

ORDER—HERODIONES.

FAMILY—*Ardeidæ*.

GENUS—*Ardea*.

146. *Ardea cinerea*. **Heron.**

HERN. JACK HERN.

"To the wilds ! and Enid leading, down the tracks
Through which he bad her lead him on, they past
Gray swamps and pools, waste places of the hern,
And wildernesses, perilous paths, they rode."

Tennyson's "Geraint and Enid."

A common resident, and generally distributed throughout all districts in the county, where it is certainly on the increase.

In the Isle of Wight it has not nested during the last few years, but is not uncommon there at all seasons, in suitable localities.

The heronries at present in existence are the following:

In the New Forest District.

VINNEY RIDGE.

Wise says² this heronry was established by birds that "first took up their abode in Old Burley Wood, and then

¹ "Hants Court Guide."

² "New Forest."

removed to Wood Fidley, and subsequently to Denny, and finally to Vinney Ridge. In 1861, fifty pairs, at least, must have built in its tall beeches. On a fine early spring morning, a long grey line of them would perch on the neighbouring green of Dame Slough, picking up the twigs of heather and flying off with them to line their great platforms of nests ; and then sailing down to the Black-water stream, in the "bottom" close by, to fish. In the morning and evening, and, in fact, all through the day, one incessant clamour was going on, and under the trees lay great eels, which had fallen from their nests. Last year the numbers were greatly decreased, the birds having been, perhaps, driven away by the woodcutters and charcoal-burners employed to cut down the surrounding timber. . . . A small colony has, too, established itself at Boldrewood."

In 1904 the Vinney Ridge heronry comprised only seven nests, one being in an oak tree, the others in huge beeches, one tree having three nests in it. Of these nests only four or five were occupied, and from two of them the birds refused to be disturbed, but from the others they hurriedly flew off.

SOWLEY POND.

An increasing number are now nesting in Scotch firs, on the edge of Sowley Pond, in two separate colonies.

We visited this heronry on a brilliant April afternoon. In the wood there was no sound but the rushing of a strong westerly breeze through the tops of the Scotch firs, and the bright sunlight was streaming between their bare trunks and among the grey stems of the neighbouring oaks, and spreading over the sparse herbage on the ground beneath ; glimpses of the distance beyond showed dancing, glittering

waves on the surface of the pond. In the tops of the trees the great masses of the nests swayed in the wind, but not a sign of their being occupied—no hurried flapping away of huge birds, or any warning cry to betray their presence. Only out across the pond a flight of them was wheeling and soaring over the surface like a flock of gigantic gulls, and not until the watcher had waited for some time in concealment did one or two of the birds return to reconnoitre, floating in the air above the nests and gazing downwards in search of the disturber of their solitude, then perching hesitatingly on the topmost boughs of the tree before returning to their nest ; but above all the intense silence of the great wary birds was most remarkable. The Hon. John Scott-Montagu informs us that they have nested here ever since he can remember, but in former years there was also another heronry about two miles below Beaulieu, on the east side of the river, in Sims' Wood.

There were in 1904 some thirty pairs of birds nesting in one of the colonies on Sowley Pond, and as many as four nests were counted in some of the trees.

SOMERLEY.

The largest heronry now in the New Forest district is probably that on the Earl of Normanton's estate at Somerley, near Ringwood, where the nests are built in Scotch firs in the park ; Lord Normanton kindly informs us that there were about sixty nests in 1904, but the date of their first commencing to nest there is not known, at any rate they have nested there quite thirty-five years.

HERON COURT.

In former times a famous heronry existed at Heron Court, but this has now been extinct for some years ; Lord

Malmesbury, however, has told us that some few pairs of birds still nest on the estate, probably scattered, single nests in Scotch firs.

HINTON ADMIRAL.

A new heronry has of late years been established on Sir George Meyrick's estate at Hinton Admiral, and he has kindly informed us that they first came there some thirty years ago, and have been always carefully protected, never being allowed to be disturbed during the nesting season, nor the wood near the nesting trees to be cut at any time. About twenty pairs nested there in 1904, the nests being built in Scotch firs, close to a pond on the estate; and when Munn visited the place in January, 1905, a few pairs of the old birds were about, and one nest was certainly being repaired.

In the Central Hill District.

None of the heronries here are of any size.

MOTTISFONT.

The colony at Mottisfont is perhaps the largest in this district, and built in tall Scotch firs growing in marshy ground close to the River Test. Mrs. Barker-Mill writes that it must have been in existence for a very long time, and now consists of from twenty to twenty-five nests.

WOLMER FOREST.

There was no heronry here in Gilbert White's time, because there were no trees until about 1825. In his twenty-second Letter to Pennant (1769) he remarks that a heronry is a curiosity which he could never manage to see. "Fourscore nests," he adds, "of such a bird in one tree

is a rarity which I would ride half as many miles to have a sight of."

In his chapter on the flight of birds¹ he writes that the heron seems to be encumbered with too much sail for its light body, and in his Diary of October 6th, 1781, he notes "several herons at Wolmer Pond."

It was about the year 1868 that two colonies were established at Wolmer in Scotch firs, and Captain Fielden told Mr. Harting that there were eight or ten pairs building there in 1872, as recorded in the "Zoologist" of that year.

Mr. C. J. Cornish has described the spot as follows² :—
"The nests are in a plantation of tall pines in the very heart of the forest, where one or two small brooks, deeply tinged with iron deposits, flow through the wood. The trees are so tall as to be inaccessible to the climber; and as the great birds launch themselves from their nests, and sail round with harsh cries above the tree tops, the visitor might well imagine himself back in some bygone forest era. The trees on which the nests are placed are covered with a thick green lichen, and are readily distinguished from the rest."

In 1898 Captain Cowie reported to the War Office that "the heronry has gradually increased from one nest a few years ago to about twenty nests now, and nearly fifty young herons flew from the nests in 1897."³

In the Northern Woodlands.

There are no heronries in this district, and the birds are scarcer here than in any other division of the county.

¹ Letter xlii. to Barrington. August 7, 1778.

² "Wild England of To-day." 1895.

³ "Nature Notes." 1898.

Single nests, or small colonies not worthy the name of heronries, are frequently discovered in many parts of the county. Some ten years ago we knew of one or two pairs nesting near Marchwood, and one pair at Stanswood Common, near Fawley, both in the New Forest; in 1889 a few pairs nested between Cranbury and Chandlersford, so the late Mr. F. Warner informed us; at Alresford Pond also some pairs occasionally nest, and, in the neighbourhood of Longparish, Munn has frequently found pairs nesting—nests with eggs in 1898, and April, 1900; and again in April, 1901, he was shown three nests built close together in small oaks, one nest containing eggs, and the other two having large young ones.

In the Isle of Wight.

Bury writes¹ that a pair built their nest and laid eggs, "some years back," at Grove, in the parish of Brading. He also relates that a pair of peregrines were observed to attack a heron, and mentions an instance of one being attacked first by a peregrine, and then by a carpenter, armed with a tar-brush, from both of which enemies it contrived to escape.

There is, however, no heronry in the island; but Mr. Thomas Gulliver, who was formerly a ranger in Parkhurst Forest, informs us that some years ago there were usually three or four nests there, built in tall Scotch firs, and an old bird and two young were obtained from a nest there about 1888, which were stuffed, and are now in the possession of his son.

We note that the eggs of the heron are protected in the county, but not the bird itself; it is one of our largest

¹ "Zoologist." 1845.

and finest resident birds, and is surely deserving of toleration.

Many are destroyed in the inland parts of the central district, on the streams where the fishing is strictly preserved, though the damage done by the birds to the fish is comparatively trifling.

147. *Ardea purpurea*. **Purple Heron.**

A very rare accidental visitor from Central and Southern Europe.

In the Hart collection at Christchurch there is a specimen procured at Ashley Farm, near Stockbridge, June 30th, 1875.

In Mr. Willett's collection there was also a specimen, which was shot at Alverstone, in the Isle of Wight, in 1890.

This example came into the possession of Mr. F. Smith, who now lives at Mill Hill, Cowes, but was formerly in business as a taxidermist at Newport, and from whom Mr. Willett procured most of his collection.

Smith relates that it was shot by the miller at Alverstone, who, thinking it was a variety of the common heron, buried it; but, on hearing it described, Smith induced the man to dig it up and bring it to him, when he found it, as he had supposed, to be a purple heron, and he made the best specimen possible of the bird, which had been buried several days.

Mr. Wadham, who succeeded Smith, first gave us information of this very rare specimen.

148. *Ardea garzetta*. Little Egret.

A very rare accidental visitor from Southern and Eastern Europe.

In the Hart collection at Christchurch there is a specimen which was shot on the Stour at that place in the beginning of July, 1822, by the late William Lockyer, who sold it to Mr. Barrow, of Christchurch, by whom it was preserved. It afterwards passed into the hands of Captain Cox, at whose sale Mr. Hart purchased it. (Yarrell, vol. iv., p. 183).

Probably other examples have occurred in the county, but the records thereof are too vague and doubtful to be noted here.

149. *Ardea ralloides*. Squacco Heron.

A rare accidental visitor, inhabiting Southern Europe and Africa.

A specimen in the Hart collection at Christchurch was procured on June 8th, 1832, by Mr. Saunders.

Another in Lord Malmesbury's collection at Heron Court was shot about the same time in Christchurch Harbour, and is mentioned in Eyton's "Rarer British Birds."

In the Isle of Wight one was shot at St. Helen's, near the old church sea mark, on May 19th, 1858, and was taken, still living, to Mr. Beazley, the Ryde bird-stuffer; it passed later into the collection of Mr. Borrer, of Cowfold. (More, 1860.)

GENUS—*Ardetta*.**150. *Ardetta minuta*. Little Bittern.**

A rather rare occasional summer visitor, which has chiefly occurred in the New Forest district.

In the Hart collection are specimens procured in the district in May, 1868, and April 22nd, 1878.

Mr. Hart says that it has also probably nested in that locality, for he has procured a young one with down still adhering to the tips of the feathers.

One was obtained at Hilsea in 1851¹; one at Fordingbridge in April, 1869; one was killed at Heron Court, on April 26th, 1862; and another, a male, was shot on the River Stour there on June 9th, 1893—both these latter specimens are in the Earl of Malmesbury's collection.

In the Isle of Wight Bury² mentions one obtained there on the authority of Mr. Butler, and Mr. A. V. Willett has a record of one shot at Blackgang in 1897.

GENUS—*Nycticorax*.**151. *Nycticorax griseus*. Night-Heron.**

An accidental visitor.

Messrs. Hart and Meade-Waldo class this species as an occasional visitor during summer and autumn, but we think that the specimens which have been procured in the county are hardly numerous enough to consider it other than an accidental visitor, and certainly not a common one.

¹ West in "Naturalist." 1856. ² "Zoologist." 1845.

In the Hart collection are specimens procured July 22nd, 1868; August 7th, 1879; and an immature one, November 5th, 1884—all from the district.

A female was shot on the Stour, at Christchurch, on November 6th, 1891, by a river keeper¹; and Mr. Turner-Turner exhibited one in Bournemouth in 1901, which had been killed at Avon Castle.

It is a native of Southern Europe, Africa, and temperate and Southern Asia.

GENUS—*Botaurus*.

152. *Botaurus stellaris*. Bittern.

A rare winter visitor.

Formerly a resident in suitable localities in the county and Isle of Wight, but now merely an occasional visitor, except perhaps in the valleys of our three largest rivers, where it occurs pretty regularly in winter, and occasionally in such numbers that it might be considered a regular winter visitor to these places.

The names Bitterne (near Southampton) and Bisterne (near Ringwood) are no doubt relics of the former abundance of this bird in these neighbourhoods, and large numbers of their bones were discovered,—as well as those of herons, cocks and hens,—beneath the foundations of Christchurch Priory.²

Our earliest record is in the following passage, which has not hitherto been published in full, from Gilbert White's Journal, under the date of January 14th, 1774:—

“A bittern was shot in Shrub Wood. A dog hunted

¹ “Zoologist.” 1891.

² Warner's “South-Western Parts of Hampshire,” vol. ii., 1793.

it on foot and sprung it in the cover. On the same day Mr. Yalden shot one in a coppice in the parish of Emshott, and about the same time one was shot in the parish of Greatham.

These birds are very seldom seen in this district, and are probably driven from their watery haunts by the great floods and obliged to betake themselves to the uplands. The wings expanded measured just four feet. The tail-feathers, shafts and all, were just five inches long, and ten in number. Though the colours on the bittern's wings and back are no ways gaudy or radiant, yet are the dark and chesnut streaks so curiously blended and combined as to give that fowl a surprising beauty. . . . Two of these birds I dressed, and found the flavour to be like that of a wild duck or teal, but not so delicate, and nothing like the flavour of a hare, and the flesh was very brown.

It appears since that all these bitterns were killed in Selborne parish."

Colonel Hawker includes three bitterns in his total bag between 1802 and 1853.

Wise includes it among his list of winter birds, and says that hardly a year passes without several specimens being brought to the bird-stuffers.

Rake, of Fordingbridge, told him that five were killed close to that place in the winter of 1858, and he also includes this species in a list he made of the birds that he had noticed from his garden at Fordingbridge.

The last record of its having nested in the county has been furnished by the Rev. A. A. Headley, rector of Alresford, who writes that "there is absolutely no doubt that it bred in' Avington Park in the year 1888 or 1889, or perhaps a year or two before, certainly as recently as 1886," an egg taken then being in his possession.

We think that if the birds which visit certain districts, such as the swamps of the Avon Valley, in the winter, were allowed to be undisturbed, a proportion of them might be tempted to remain again to nest and eventually to re-establish themselves among our resident birds. There are numerous records of this species from all parts of the county.

Mr. Corbin, in the "Zoologist" for 1892, records some eight or nine occurrences in the Avon Valley between Fordingbridge and Christchurch during the winter of 1891.

Mr. Sutton Davies notes a pair shot at Stockbridge on January 18th, 1892¹; and one at Worthy on November 11th, 1893.²

Mr. Smith records one from Avington on January 6th, 1897.³

Mr. C. I. Evans informs us that fourteen were shot near Christchurch in December, 1899.

Dr. Loveless, of Stockbridge, killed a pair at Marsh Court in 1898, and another was obtained there in 1904.

In the Isle of Wight,⁴ Bury calls it an occasional visitor, and says that E. Peel obtained three specimens; R. Loe has shot three or four; one was shot at St. Lawrence in 1840; one in Parkhurst Forest in the winter of 1843-4.

Mr. Willett records one shot at Atherfield, February 7th, 1895; Mr. Wadham a male at Cowes on November 28th, 1898; a male at Freshwater on January 20th, 1903; and one procured at Brook on March 24th, 1903, which was first seen feeding with some fowls in a farmyard.

The specimen figured in Yarrell was killed in Denny Bog, near Lyndhurst.

¹ "Zoologist." 1893. ² "Zoologist." 1894.

³ "Zoologist." 1897. ⁴ "Zoologist." 1845.

153. *Botaurus lentiginosus*. American Bittern.

A very rare accidental visitor.

One was shot by Mr. G. R. Nunn, of Lyndhurst, at Cadnam, in the New Forest, in February, 1876,¹ and was sold with Mr. Bidwell's collection in 1904.

There is also a specimen in the Hart collection, which was shot at Woodside, near Lymington, in January of the same year.

A native of North America.

The record in Morris is a mistake.

FAMILY—*Ciconiidae*.**GENUS—*Ciconia*.****154. *Ciconia alba*. White Stork.**

An accidental visitor from Continental Europe.

This species is so frequently kept in captivity that many of those recorded are doubtless escaped birds, but the following appear to be records of genuine wild birds which have occurred in our county.

Yarrell² mentions one killed in 1808, by the gamekeeper of John Guitton, of Little Park, near Wickham.

The male bird in the Hart collection was killed on July 29th, 1881.

In the "Field" of May 3rd, 1884, Mr. R. A. Valpy

¹ "Field." March 10th, 1877.

² "British Birds," vol iv., p. 221.



BLACK-HEADED GULL.

From a Photograph by Mr. Smith Whiting.



BLACK-HEADED GULL.

From a Photograph by Mr. Smith Whiting.

To face p. 204.

says—"On Wednesday evening, the 23rd ult., about a quarter to seven, while standing on the new railway, about three miles from the town of Newbury, we were surprised to see a flock of white storks pass close to us, flying in a north-easterly direction. When first observed they were flying directly towards us, about thirty yards from the ground." Mr. W. F. Hall, writing on May 17th, says he also saw this flight of storks travelling towards the north-east from the Enborne Road, some few yards from the rectory.

The same flight was earlier in the day noticed at Laverstoke, where they were flying due north.

The late Rev. R. E. Harrisson, Rector of Droxford, told us that when he was curate of Fawley, between the years 1844 and 1857, he visited Egypt and brought back several birds, but was disappointed in not obtaining a stork. Shortly after his return, however, a specimen appeared at Fawley, and was added to his collection, with which it was sold in 1902.

Mr. Mansell-Pleydell mentions two seen in Poole Harbour, in April, 1884, "which, I believe, were subsequently shot at Christchurch."¹

In the "Isle of Wight County Press" for May, 1902, Mr. Percy Wadham, of Newport, recorded the capture of one at Shorwell, in April, 1902. He informs us that it was shot at by a man at Atherfield, on the 29th of April, and was evidently wounded, for later in the day it dropped exhausted in a field near Shorwell among some cattle, which turned on it, breaking its leg and wing. It was discovered and rescued, its damaged limbs were attended to, and it lived for some months afterwards.

¹ "Birds of Dorset."

Other records are :—

One at Bedhampton. August, 1887. (W. T. Pearce.)

Two at Hayling. September, 1887. (W. T. Pearce.)

FAMILY—*Plataleidae*.

GENUS—*Platalea*.

155. *Platalea leucorodia*. Spoonbill.

A rare occasional visitor.

Three specimens (two adult and one immature) were shot in the New Forest in the last week of October, 1841, and were brought to Southampton, where they were seen by Sir Raymond Jarvis, who purchased one and presented it to Bury.¹

In the Hart collection are specimens from the district, procured on October 3rd, 1864, and in August, 1876.

One is recorded from Stubbington about 1860. (Stares.)

One was seen in Christchurch Harbour during May, 1891. (Hart.)²

One was seen at Portchester on August 15th, 1892, and another at the same place on May 25th, 1893. (Stares.)³

In the Isle of Wight, Bury informed More that one was shot near Yarmouth in 1845.⁴

¹ "Zoologist." 1845.

² "Zoologist." December, 1891.

³ "Zoologist." July, 1893.

⁴ "Birds of the Isle of Wight." 1860.

GENUS—*Plegadis*.**156. *Plegadis falcinellus*. Glossy Ibis.**

A scarce accidental visitor.

Wise mentions that Mr. Hart killed a young pair in a meadow near Christchurch Harbour, in September, 1859.¹

In the Hart collection are a male and female procured in August, 1870, and an immature specimen obtained in September, 1876, from the district.

A male was shot on Tundry Lake, in Dogmersfield Park, near Odiham, in September, 1881. (Sclater.)²

Mr. Corbin informs us of one killed near Romsey, in October, 1902.

ORDER—ODONTOGLOSSÆ.

FAMILY—*Phænicopteridae*.GENUS—*Phænicopterus*.**157. *Phænicopterus roseus*. Flamingo.**

A very scarce accidental visitor.

An adult bird was shot at the mouth of the Beaulieu River on November 26th, 1883, of which Lord Montagu writes in the "Zoologist" of August, 1884:—

"It had been flying about the mudbanks outside the Beaulieu River for about a fortnight previously, and many had gone out to try and shoot it. It was very wild and

¹ "New Forest." ² "Proc. Zool. Soc." 1881.

wary, and no one had been able to get within gunshot of it, as it was able to fly extremely well, and never allowed any boat to approach near enough to it. The coast-guardsmen frequently shot at it with their rifles. When I heard that the bird was being thus shot at, and had been at the mouth of the river so long, I sent a keeper of mine (a naval pensioner and a capital hand with the punt-gun) in the gunning-punt, to try and get the bird for me. In this he succeeded, but he was not able to get nearer than about 120 yards. He was laying the punt-gun on the bird at about that distance, hoping he might get nearer and shoot it with the shoulder-gun, when the flamingo, being on the alert and very wild, rose on the wing, and my keeper Goff fired the punt-gun at him and brought him down with three shots through him. The bird is a very fine one, quite pink all over, and with a good scarlet wing. There was nothing to show that it could have been at any time in captivity, for its wings were quite perfect, and it was extremely wild and could fly well, taking long flights. There had been a great gale from the south-east about a fortnight before, and it is my belief that the flamingo had been blown by this gale to the British shores. Whether he came from North Africa or from the South of France (mouth of the Rhone) it is impossible to tell ; but that the bird was a wild one, and had been blown to England by stress of weather, I have no doubt."

This specimen is preserved at the Palace House, Beaulieu. There is every reason to consider that it is a genuine wild bird.

ORDER—ANSERES.

FAMILY—*Anatidæ*.[GENUS—*Chenalopex*.*Chenalopex ægyptiacus*. Egyptian Goose.

An introduced species; many have occurred in an apparently wild state in the county, but probably all had escaped from captivity.

Colonel Hawker relates in his "Instructions to Young Sportsmen" that three were for some days in the winter of 1823 in the fields of Longparish, and one was killed.—(In his "Diary" he mentions this occurrence under the date January 26th, 1824.)

The next year, during the tremendous gales from the west, a flock of about eighty appeared near the same place, and two were killed. Wise mentions a specimen killed on the Avon, near Bickton Mill, in February, 1855.

Some years ago a small flock appeared at Greywell in the winter, and one was shot.

Mr. Chalkley records one shot at Horndean on December 29th, 1904.]

GENUS—*Anser*.158. *Anser cinereus*. Grey Lag Goose.

A scarce winter visitor.

Mr. Hart has specimens in his collection procured on January 6th, 1877, and December 4th, 1879.

Hadfield records one, of twelve, procured off Blackgang, in the Isle of Wight, in November, 1888.¹

159. *Anser segetum*. Bean-goose.

An occasional winter visitor.

In the Hart collection are specimens procured December 4th, 1871, and in February, 1880.

A specimen in Lord Malmesbury's collection at Heron Court was shot with another out of a flock on Avon Common, and weighed $8\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Mr. W. H. Turle shot two out of a flock on Bransbury Common some twelve years ago.

More has recorded it from the Isle of Wight, and Dr. Cowper² says it has been obtained in the marshes near Sandown in the winter of 1892-93.

Mr. Meade-Waldo³ considers it an uncertain visitor, occasionally passing over in considerable numbers.

160. *Anser brachyrhynchus*. Pink-footed Goose.

An occasional winter visitor.

In the Hart collection are specimens from the district, procured on January 6th, 1871, and February 17th, 1886.

The three preceding species are rarely, when procured, distinguished from each other, or correctly identified—usually being designated as “grey geese,” or “wild

¹ “Zoologist.” 1889. ² “Hants Court Guide.”

³ “Victoria History of Hants.”

geese"—therefore it is difficult to say which of the three has been most frequently procured ; but none of them can be considered of regular, or common occurrence.

Gilbert White notes in his Journal, under the date March 8th, 1771, the occurrence of "large flocks of wild geese," and on March 17th, 1772, "Wild geese appear in a vast flock."

On November 5th, 1783, when staying with his brother at Fyfield, he notes that "wild geese appear on the downs and Salisbury Plain ; they feed much on the green wheat in the winter, and towards the spring damage it much, so that the farmers set up figures to scare them away."

Colonel Hawker in his "Diary," under the date January 7th, 1834, mentions :—

"The east end of the village (Longparish) all in excitement about two wild geese being over in the fields, and how Fiddler Blake and Miller Dance (who missed them, a fair shot) had driven them away. I rode off at once with the pony and a telescope, and after a very long reconnoitre I spied one of these geese about a quarter of a mile off in an open field. After much manœuvring and crawling (to the very earth) like a toad for two gunshots and more, I got so near as to give him such a sickener with the first barrel that I made him 'haul his wind,' and fall a dead bird to the second. In my whole life I never was more proud of my shooting generalship than in bringing home this said grey goose.

"N.B.—On seeing Leadbeater in town, who has my goose to stuff, he told me that it was a very curious and a very valuable species, that he never saw before ; and that this bird had completely 'floored' him in his ornithological knowledge, which we all know to be about the best in Europe."

Again, on April 1st, 1839, at Longparish, he says:—"Seven wild geese were seen flying over to-day," and on the next day, swallows having been seen, he remarks:—"A curious circumstance—grey geese and swallows in the country at the same time."

161. *Anser albifrons*. White-fronted Goose.

A winter visitor.

This is now the commonest of the grey geese which visit the coasts of the mainland and Isle of Wight in winter. They stray frequently inland, remaining for some time in spots where they are undisturbed, and where food attracts them.

Hawker, however, says in his "Instructions to Young Sportsmen," "they were quite unknown to gunners on the Hampshire coast till the frost of 1830, and he has seen none there since that year; then about eighty pitched in a field close to Milford, and some were shot." In his "Diary," under January 15th, at Keyhaven, he thus refers to them—"I saw eleven of such birds as I never saw before. . . . I bagged four in all. They proved to be four white-fronted geese. The most beautiful fowl that I ever saw brought home for a cabinet."

Under January 16th, 1830—"I had just time to swallow my dinner and bustle off after about fifty more of these extraordinary outlandish geese. I put both barrels into them, and picked up twelve white-fronted geese."

On January 22nd, 1830—"The next shot was at nine of the outlandish geese, but I only got two of these white-fronted geese"; and again on January 29th—"Captain

Ward . . . bagged three of the white-fronted laughing geese out of seven that dropped in off the quay, and I afterwards fired a barrel, a very long shot, and got one laughing goose."

He procured another on January 1st, 1831, and a single one on January 26th, ten years later.

On February 3rd, 1841, he procured one brown goose, which he says, in a footnote, was like the laughing goose, but with no bars on the breast, which Leadbeater thinks is a variety of the laughing goose.

Lord Malmesbury has a specimen in his collection at Heron Court, shot on the Moors River in February, 1827, which was then considered a very rare specimen. In the "Memoirs of an Ex-Minister," written by the great uncle of the present Earl, we read: "January 26th, 1838. I killed five white-fronted geese to-day, stalking them with a pony, which is the only way of getting near them."

Specimens have also been procured—at Holybourne (Curtis); at Cliddesden ("Zoologist," 1870); and in the Isle of Wight. Dr. Cowper records it from near Sandown in the winter of 1892-3.

Yarrell mentions the winter of 1829-30 as the date of the appearance of large flocks in Devon and Cornwall.

GENUS—*Bernicla*.

162. *Bernicla brenta*. Brent Goose.

A common winter visitor to the coasts of the county and Isle of Wight. Sometimes occurring in great numbers, but rarely straying inland.

Mr. Corbin has recorded one killed near Ringwood on November 26th, 1885.¹

Six were seen near Winchester on November 24th, 1896 (Smith).²

One was shot at Medstead on February 2nd, 1897, and three supposed to be of this species were seen at Winchester on February 15th, 1897 (Smith).³

It is not now nearly so plentiful on our coasts as in the time of Colonel Hawker, who frequently mentions it in his "Diary," one interesting note being that on May 18th, 1848, "my two favourite brent geese that I had brought quite tame from Keyhaven" were carried off, with the poultry at Longparish, by foxes.

His total bag in fifty years includes 1327 brent, as compared with twenty laughing geese, three other grey geese, and three barnacles.

163. *Bernicla leucopsis*. **Barnacle Goose.**

A rare winter visitor, chiefly to the coast.

Our first record is in Gilbert White's Journal, where we find under April 10th, 1778: "Three barnacle geese on a pond at Bramshott. One was shot and sent to me."

Hawker writes in his "Diary" on January 13th, 1829: "Shot one at Keyhaven"; and on January 1st, 1845: "I just saved my blank with a glorious brace of rare birds—two barnacles. While my punt was at the quay, and Reed mopping her out, and I just going to eat a second breakfast, these two birds came over and wheeled

¹ "Zoologist." May, 1886. ² "Zoologist." January, 1897.

³ "Zoologist." October, 1897.

round over some pop-gunners, that would have scared them off by a useless discharge out of reach, but for my men, who prevented their firing. I ran out, jumped into the punt, and set off to the birds on the mud, just before the quay, and cut them up both quite dead before a multitude of spectators. I never saw or heard of but three barnacles so far south as our coast—one that I shot ashore many years ago and these two splendid specimens."

One was procured at St. Cross, near Winchester, in 1877, and is in the Winchester College collection; another at Ringwood in 1878. (Corbin.)

Mr. Hart has specimens in his collection procured on January 19th, 1892, and April 7th, 1892.

In the Isle of Wight, More records two shot in Freshwater Bay in March, 1858; and Dr. Cowper says it has been obtained a few times in severe winters.

[*Bernicla canadensis*. Canada Goose.

Another introduced species, which frequently occurs in an apparently wild state, but, like the Egyptian Goose, can only be considered as escaped from captivity, or sprung from semi-wild parents.

Up to about the year 1890, a pair belonging to the Earl of Portsmouth nested for many seasons on an island in the river at Hurstbourne, and frequently reared their young.]

GENUS—*Cygnus*.164. *Cygnus olor*. Mute Swan.

“ . . . And the barge with oar and sail
 Moved from the brink, like some full-breasted swan
 That, fluting a wild carol ere her death,
 Ruffles her pure, cold plume, and takes the flood
 With swarthy webs.”

Tennyson's "Morte d'Arthur."

Resident in a more or less domesticated condition. A great many are reared and live under entirely natural conditions, particularly on some of the streams near the coast.

On the Beaulieu River most of the swans are perfectly wild and have never been confined in any way; numbers of them may be seen on the coast during the time of the year they are not nesting, feeding on the mudlands.

There is no reason why many of the mute swans that visit the coast in winter should not be genuine wild birds, for as such they are found as near to our shores as Denmark and Sweden, and their wariness and their evident alarm at the proximity of human beings favour the supposition that they are not tamed birds. (Munn.)

A swannery is formerly said to have existed on the Avon, near Lord Normanton's estate at Somerley, but it is not now in existence. In 1625 John Taylor, the water poet, made a voyage in his wherry from London to Christchurch, and thence up the Avon, to Salisbury, to ascertain if there were any impediments to navigation; and he tells us: "as I passed up the Avon at the least 2000 swans, like so many pilots, swam in the deepest places before me and showed me the way." ¹

¹ Yarrell. 4th edition, vol. iv.

In the winter of 1739 one was shot at Emsworth, which had a brass collar on its neck bearing the letters "R.V.I." cut through the brass; the collar was at the time sent to the Duke of Richmond for his inspection, but was never returned.¹

We wrote to Mr. Harting, as our greatest authority on the antiquarian side of Natural History, to ask if he could suggest an interpretation for this inscription, and he kindly replied as follows: "As to the letters I am puzzled, and can only surmise that they may stand for *Regis Vivarii Incola!* But I have no authority for such a reading, though I can give you an earlier authority for the use of a Latin inscription to denote royal ownership. The silver varvels, attached to the jesses of the King's hawks in James I.'s time, used to bear the words "*Sum regis Angliæ.*"

Mr. Harting also kindly refers us to another Emsworth swan—unless it is the same bird under another date—mentioned in Hone's "Every Day Book" (July 12th): "In the hard winter of 1726 a swan was killed at Emsworth . . . that had a ring round its neck, with the King of Denmark's arms on it."

The Polish swan (*C. immutabilis*) can only be considered as a variety of the mute swan, differing in the colour of the young.

¹ Longcroft's "Hundred of Bosmere," 1857.

165. *Cygnus musicus*. Whooper Swan.

WILD SWAN. HOOPER.

A winter visitor to all parts of the coast of the county and Isle of Wight.

Sometimes numerous in severe weather, but rarely straying inland.

Longcroft¹ records flocks of a hundred at Emsworth in 1800.

In Hawker's "Diary" are several notes of their occurrence and his pursuit of them off Keyhaven. Between 1802 and 1853 he shot thirty-eight. On one occasion (February 5th, 1838), he knocked down eight at one shot, though he bagged only six of them.

In the winters of 1823, 1829, and 1838 they seem to have been specially numerous.

In Lord Malmesbury's collection at Heron Court there is an old male killed on the Avon, among twenty-nine others, in February, 1838, which weighed 22 lbs.

Most local collections contain examples of this species, and occurrences have been noted inland at Southwick (McArthur); Headly (Curtis), and Alresford.

Mr. Rake has noted it among those species observed from his garden at Fordingbridge.

¹ "Hundred of Bosmere."

166. *Cygnus bewicki*. Bewick's Swan.

An occasional winter visitor. It is by no means infrequent in some winters, but as it was only recognised as a separate species about 1829, there are no early records of its occurrence.

It is more rarely seen on inland waters even than the last species.

In the Hart collection are specimens procured in 1861, and on October 19th, 1885. Wise¹ says it has been killed on the Avon in the winter of 1855.

There is also a specimen in the Earl of Malmesbury's collection at Heron Court.

At the end of the year 1880, an adult and an immature bird remained on the lake at Laverstoke for about a week.

It is easily distinguished by its much smaller size from any of the other swans that occur in the county.

GENUS—*Tadorna*.

167. *Tadorna cornuta*. Common Sheldrake.**BURROW-DUCK. BARGANDER.**

A scarce resident on the coasts of the mainland and the Isle of Wight. Visiting all parts of the coast in winter and occasionally wandering inland.

Hawker has few references to this bird in his "Diary," and judging by his total bag of thirty-seven in fifty years, it was not much more common then than now.

¹ "New Forest."

Considering the great increase of population along our coast, it is a matter of satisfaction that this handsome and interesting bird still nests at various points between Bournemouth and Portsmouth.

Starting from the west side, Hengistbury Head is a favourite locality, and nests have been found between Mudeford and Keyhaven, and in the Salterns towards Lymington.

On Beaulieu Manor one or two pairs nest every year, and are carefully protected.

And even between Southampton and Portsmouth there is a spot where a nest with seven eggs was found "a few years back," where a working-man devoured a whole clutch in 1892, and where a pair of birds were seen in the nesting season of 1904.

Mr. John Stares and Mr. C. Mason have kindly given us information concerning this last mentioned locality.

None of the ornithologists of the Isle of Wight have hitherto claimed this bird as a breeding species; but Mr. H. Damant, writing from Cowes in November, 1904, has informed us that he saw a pair with a brood of young ones on the Newtown River in the summer of 1904. When disturbed they forsook the water, and took refuge among the rushes and grass on the banks.

This duck, as is well-known, lays its eggs in rabbit burrows, either in the sandy cliffs or among the fallen débris beneath them, as well as among sand-dunes and in marshes.

Specimens have occurred inland at Fleet, Alresford, Whitchurch, and elsewhere.

They are very easily kept in captivity, either in gardens or on ornamental waters, being perfectly hardy, and among the most conspicuous and ornamental of all our wild ducks.

It is much to be hoped that Hampshire landowners and sportsmen will follow the example of His Majesty in protecting and encouraging the species in every way.

168. *Tadorna casarca*. Ruddy Sheldrake.

A rare accidental visitor.

Until the year 1892, this bird was looked upon as merely an escape from private waters, but in that year there appeared in various parts of the British Islands examples which naturalists believe to have been genuine immigrants from the south-east, apparently driven from their natural habitat by a severe drought.

The late Mr. W. C. Esdaile, of Burley Manor, in the New Forest, wrote to the "Times" on April 12th, that a female specimen visited his lake on March 28th, and remained there a fortnight with the other wild-fowl.

In the following August a specimen was shot by Mr. Vores, of Lymington, in the neighbourhood of that town, and is still in his possession, while Mr. Hart procured another in Christchurch Harbour the same month.

The true home of this bird is in Eastern Europe, the temperate parts of Asia, and North Africa. It visits India commonly in winter.

GENUS—*Mareca*.

169. *Mareca penelope*. Widgeon.

A regular and common winter visitor, particularly to the coast, where it sometimes occurs in vast numbers.

Large flocks may usually be seen in Christchurch Bay, resting on, and floating out with, the tide, and flying in again in strings when the stream has carried them beyond the limits of safety.

Smaller numbers and single birds occur throughout the county and Isle of Wight in winter.

In describing Wolmer Pond, Gilbert White wrote ¹:—

“On the face of this expanse of water, and perfectly secure from fowlers, lie all day long, in the winter season, vast flocks of ducks, teals, and widgeons, of various denominations; where they preen and solace and rest themselves, till towards sunset, when they issue forth in little parties (for in their natural state they are all birds of the night) to feed in the brooks and meadows; returning again with the dawn of the morning.”

They do not now, however, visit the locality in any such numbers.

In his first letter to Barrington, White includes this species among the winter birds of passage.

The gap between White and Hawker is to some extent filled by Gilpin's “Forest Scenery,” of which the original edition was dated 1791. But we fear that we cannot attach any weight to his statement that “the wild duck and the widgeon find many a delightful cover (in the neighbourhood of Leap), amidst which they breed and rear their young in great abundance.”

In Hawker's “Diary” the widgeon, as might be expected, occupies a large share of attention, for it is certainly the most abundant species of duck frequenting our shores in winter, and is represented in the Colonel's total bag by the handsome figure of two thousand two hundred and eleven.

¹ Letter viii. to Pennant.

On January 26th, 1803, when he was only seventeen, and was just beginning his sporting career, he describes his long and unsuccessful pursuit (in which a hawk also took part) after a single specimen at Longparish.

On January 3rd, 1815, he notes "prodigious flights" at Keyhaven, and again on October 19th, 1836, "a couple of widgeon pitched by my pond (at Longparish) before I was up, and I sent Buckle with my right barrel that was left loaded yesterday, to blow them over, which he easily did, and brought them in."

Wise, writing about 1860, mentions that "the fowlers round Exbury say that the widgeon too stays to nest," but he does not know of any authentic instance.

Mr. Corbin informs us that he has known of specimens being met with in the Forest in summer, and the Hon. J. Scott-Montagu remarked that a pair remained at Sowley Pond through the whole of that season in 1896.

In "Lloyd's Natural History" (p. 279) Dr. Bowdler Sharpe says that "the mere appearance of birds during the summer does not prove that they bred in the neighbourhood. This autumn (1896) a specimen was sent to the British Museum as a young widgeon, and the bird in question was supposed to have been hatched in Hampshire, but it was not a young bird at all, but an old male, changing from his short-lived summer plumage to his full dress, and, therefore, probably a non-breeding individual which had remained in southern latitudes instead of going north to breed. This I take to be the case with the birds which have been seen in Norfolk and other counties of England during the summer."

GENUS—*Dafila*.**170. *Dafila acuta*. Pintail.**

A winter visitor to the coasts of the county and Isle of Wight, but not in any great numbers.

This bird does not commonly visit inland waters, but specimens have been procured at Wolmer (Reid), and at Avington, the latter in November, 1897.¹ One in Lord Malmesbury's collection at Heron Court was killed by Lord Wimborne on the estate in January 16th, 1891.

The Hon. J. Scott-Montagu has a young female in his possession that he shot out of a lot of three or four, of which he says that circumstances pointed to their having been reared on one of the lakes on the Beaulieu Estate about the year 1894.

The pintail does not figure very largely in Colonel Hawker's list of wild fowl bagged between 1802 and 1853—thirty-nine only being killed, and those usually singly. On one occasion, however,—February 24th, 1845,—eight were shot out of a bunch of ten.

GENUS—*Anas*.**171. *Anas boscas*. Wild Duck.**

MALLARD.

A resident, generally distributed throughout the county and Isle of Wight.

¹ "Zoologist." March, 1898.

The numbers of this bird are largely augmented in winter, particularly in severe seasons.

Gilbert White's historical reference to the occurrence of this bird at Wolmer Pond has already been quoted under Widgeon.

In former days it was most commonly taken in decoys, but none are now in use in the county. Sir R. Payne-Gallwey's well-known "*Book of Duck Decoys*" mentions three in Hampshire, situated at North Stoneham, at Bournemouth, and on the Beaulieu River.

The first of these was constructed about eighty years before he wrote, and remained in use until about the year 1874. This is no doubt the pond visited by Miss Charlotte Yonge "many years ago," and described among the memories of an "*Old Woman's Outlook*": "Very cautiously and silently (she says) we were allowed to peep between the screens, where the birds were to be seen swimming, and now and then alighting on what was to be their Styx, and it was black enough! . . . Of course, we might not show ourselves, and could only be allowed to admire the dead: the mallard, with his glossy green head . . . the pretty little teal . . . and the widgeon, with rust-coloured head and breast."

A second used to exist at Bournemouth about the year 1826, before the present town was built, and its site is still known as the "Coy Pond."

A third was in the New Forest, on the head waters of the Beaulieu River, near Ipley Farm, but this one is now devoid of water; it was marked on a map of 1789 as "the old Decoy Pond," and the situation is still known as the Decoy Pond Farm.

Many other pools in the county are still known as "Decoys" or "Decoy Ponds," but these were probably

only ponds on which a few decoy ducks were kept to attract the wild birds for shooting. Two such ponds are in existence at Longparish, one being on Colonel Peter Hawker's old estate, just opposite Longparish House, and the other at Middleton, a short distance lower down the Test. There is also one at Mottisfont.

Between 1802 and 1853 Hawker shot 441 of this species. In his "Diary" of October 28th, 1822, he writes:—"Our duck shooting . . . (*i.e.*, at Longparish) . . . is nearly annihilated, owing to the breaking up for water-meadows of Lord Portsmouth's bogs, called the Parksies." However, in the present day the duck have returned to their original haunts, for on the Hurstbourne estate there is always an extraordinary quantity of them, and a number in most remarkable varieties of plumage. The locality is now a great sanctuary for them, and they are carefully preserved by the present Earl.

The river in front of Longparish House is another favoured spot, and they resort to the Avon at Ibsley and at Bisterne in great numbers.

There is nothing unusual in finding the nests of wild ducks at a great distance from water, as well as in hollow trees, and in the forks of trees at some distance above the ground. One has been known to lay in a rook's nest in a rookery near Stockbridge, in May, 1884.¹

As the birds pair early in February, and even lay later in the month, the close time should commence on February 2nd, and if this suggested close time were also extended to many of the other ducks which visit us in winter, no doubt an increasing number of species would be induced to remain to nest within our borders.

¹ "Zoologist." June, 1884.

Some idea of the number of wild duck nesting on our private waters may be gathered from the fact that the head-keeper at Avington told Dr. Bowdler Sharpe¹ that no less than forty sitting birds were taken off their nests there by foxes in one season.

Mr. Meade-Waldo also considers that it has increased largely as a breeding-species, owing to careful preservation.

In the Isle of Wight it is not so common during the nesting season as on the mainland ; but Dr. Cowper says that it breeds freely in Brading Marsh, and Mr. Poole, of Shanklin, informs us that a few pairs nest between that place and Blackgang.

GENUS—*Chaulelasmus*.

172. *Chaulelasmus streperus*. Gadwall.

A rather scarce winter visitor.

In the Hart collection are specimens procured on January 8th, 1875, and February 12th, 1889, from the district.

In the Heron Court collection are two specimens, one killed in February, 1827, and the other, a female, killed by Lord Malmesbury on the Stour, December 28th, 1890.

Two were shot in Langstone Harbour in January, 1879.²

Three were observed at Laverstoke from December, 1893, to March, 1894.

One was shot at Leckford, near Stockbridge, by Mr. G. Miles-Bailey on January 2nd, 1904.

¹ "Lloyd's Natural History."

² M. Dexter. "Field," January 25th, 1879.

On the Beaulieu Estate this species is even supposed to have nested, so the Hon. J. Scott-Montagu informs us, and as numbers now nest regularly in Norfolk, we think it highly probable that an occasional pair may remain to breed in such a favoured and secluded spot as the Beaulieu domain, more particularly because pinioned birds of this species are kept on some of the ponds on the estate.

This bird is included as a winter visitor in the Island lists, but appears to have been unknown to Hawker.

GENUS—*Querquedula*.

173. *Querquedula circia*. **Garganey.**

A scarce spring and summer visitor to a few localities in the county, and of occasional occurrence in the Isle of Wight.

In Mr. Hart's collection at Christchurch is a pair procured on March 25th, 1870, and he mentions that it occasionally breeds in that district.

Mr. J. Stares has recorded¹ its nesting near Fareham in 1897, when two pairs were seen in some marshy meadows on April 15th; only one pair then was seen until May 11th, and after that date one male bird only; on July 7th, a female was seen with three young ones able to fly, but after August 1st, none were observed.

There is a specimen in Lord Malmesbury's collection at Heron Court, and it has also been observed at Alresford (Baring).

In the Isle of Wight, Mr. A. V. Willett has procured a specimen, and Mr. R. Hooper has recorded it in 1874.²

¹ "Zoologist." March, 1898. ² "Zoologist." 1874.

Both More and Dr. Cowper make the mistake of dating its occurrence in the winter months.

174. *Querquedula crecca*. Common Teal.

A resident, nesting in small numbers throughout the county.

Next to the mallard this is the commonest duck that breeds with us. Its numbers are largely augmented in winter by migrants.

Gilbert White wrote in 1773¹—"Some young men went down lately to a pond on the verge of Wolmer Forest to hunt flappers, or wild ducks, many of which they caught, and, among the rest, some very minute yet well-fledged wild-fowls alive, which upon examination I found to be teals. I did not know till then that teals ever bred in the south of England, and was most pleased with the discovery; this I look upon as a great stroke in natural history."

In later years, various writers, such as Messrs. Bell, Harting, and Cornish, have reported the nesting of the teal in the same locality, but the fullest description will be found in Mr. Hudson's "Hampshire Days":—

"In Wolmer," he writes, "these pretty entertaining little ducks have bred uninterruptedly for centuries, but I greatly fear that the changes now in progress—the increase of the population, building, the larger number of troops kept close by, and perhaps, too, the slow drying up of the marshy pools—will cause them to forsake their ancient haunts. By chance I very soon discovered

¹ Letter xv. to Barrington. Selborne. July 8th, 1773.

their choicest breeding-place, not far from that dome-shaped, fir-crowned hill which was my principal landmark. This was a boggy place, thirty or forty acres in extent, surrounded by trees and overgrown by marsh weeds and grasses, and in places with rushes. Cotton grass grew in the drier parts, and the tufts nodding in the wind looked at a distance like silvery white flowers. At one end of the marsh there were clumps of willow and alder, where the reed-bunting was breeding, and the grasshopper warbler uttered his continuous whirring sound, which seemed to accord with the singing of the wind in the pines. At the other end there was open water, with patches of rushes growing in it; and here at the water's edge, shaded by a small fir, I composed myself in a bed of heather to watch the birds."

Then follows a most excellent description of the habits of this lively little bird, too long to reproduce here, but one of the best and truest accounts ever written, portraying its character in charming language that every lover of nature should read.

White also gave another locality in the same neighbourhood where the teal nested. In Letter viii. to Pennant he writes:—" . . . Bin's or Bean's pond, which is worthy the attention of a naturalist or a sportsman. For, being crowded at the upper end with willows, and with *Carex cespitosa*, it affords such a safe and pleasing shelter to wild ducks, teals, snipes, etc., that they breed there."

The pond has been drained now many years, and the covert has almost disappeared.

Colonel Hawker in his "Diary" has few entries about this bird; on August 19th, 1822, he shot two at Long-parish, about which he remarks—"Teal here, in summer, are very rare. I marked them down while fishing; there

were three in number, and I bagged two at a shot, flying, although a long way off, and with a very small gun."

On October 7th, 1848, he "made a couple of brilliant shots at two teal that dropped into our river (*i.e.*, at Longparish) this morning."

Between 1802 and 1853 he shot one hundred and thirty-five of these birds.

At the present day they are, in the summer, not more plentiful than in his time, in that district, but considerable numbers visit it in winter.

The New Forest district seems to be most favoured by this species in the nesting season; Wise¹ records it as nesting in most of the bottoms throughout the Forest, and also on the Avon, and Mr. Meade-Waldo² remarks that it breeds principally in the New Forest region.

It has occurred in summer on the Meon and at Grange (Stares); on Cranbury Common (Miss Yonge); at various places in the Test valley; and young birds are frequently seen on Alresford Pond in late summer (Davies)³

In the Isle of Wight it occurs most usually as a winter visitor; but Mr. Poole, of Shanklin, informs us that of late years a pair or two have nested in Brading Marshes.

175. *Querquedula carolinensis*. American Green-winged Teal.

A very rare accidental visitor.

In the "Zoologist" of 1880, Mr. Arthur Fellowes states that he has in his possession one which was shot at Hurstbourne Park, by his father, more than forty years before.

¹ "New Forest."

² "Victoria History of Hants."

³ "Zoologist." January, 1893.

Only two other examples have been recorded in the British Isles.

It inhabits North America in summer, and visits Mexico, the West Indies and Central America on migration.

GENUS—*Spatula*.

176. *Spatula clypeata*. Shoveller.

A winter visitor in small numbers, occasionally remaining to nest.

This is another species of duck which is increasing with us as a breeding species, especially in the valley of the Avon.

The first record of its nesting was in Kelsall's list (1890), on the authority of Mr. Hart.

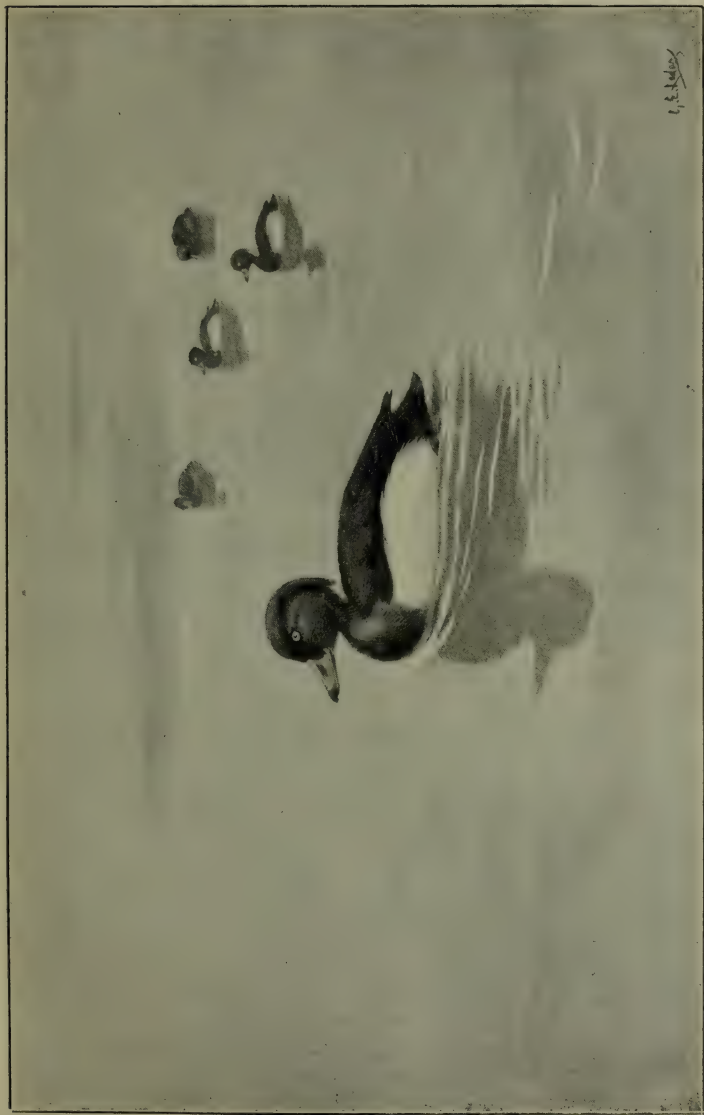
Mr. Corbin notes in the "Zoologist" for April, 1901, that a pair were observed on the Avon, near Ringwood, throughout the summer of 1900, and during the summer of 1904 several pairs undoubtedly nested on the same river, near Avon Tyrrell.

The Hon. J. Scott-Montagu informs us that it has probably also nested on the Beaulieu Estate, male birds having been noticed there during the summer.

Mr. Hart has specimens in his collection procured in February, 1864, December, 1866, and January, 1864.

Lord Malmesbury also has specimens—a duck killed below Blackwater, at Heron Court, in the winter of 1812-13, and another killed on the Moors River, December 12th, 1815.

Occurrences have been noted at Greywell (Curtis);



TUFTED DUCK.

From a Drawing by Mr. G. E. Lodge.

near Winchester ; and at Stockbridge, in January, 1894 (Davies).

In the Isle of Wight it has only occurred as an occasional winter visitor.

GENUS—*Fuligula*.

177. *Fuligula rufina*. Red-crested Pochard.

A rare accidental visitor.

In the Hart collection is a male which was shot in Christchurch Harbour, on January, 20th, 1820, by Iram Hiscock.

It is a native of Southern and Eastern Europe, Northern Africa, Persia, Turkestan, and Northern and Central India.

178. *Fuligula cristata*. Tufted Duck.

CURRE.

A common winter visitor to our inland waters and coasts, now nesting in a few localities. Having first nested in the county about fifteen years ago, its breeding range is rapidly increasing, as will be seen from the following notes.

Hawker mentions that he shot five at Hurstbourne by means of his "invisible approach" on February 9th, 1832, and he alludes to the species as occurring at Alresford on various occasions. His total bag for fifty years was twenty-seven.

A note in the "Field" records that a pair were shot at Hurstbourne, on June 23rd, 1878.¹

The Hon. Alick Baring, writing to Kelsall from the Grange, near Alresford, in 1889, says, "I am hoping that the tufted duck may breed with us. I have noticed it as late as mid-April, but never afterwards."

None of Kelsall's correspondents at this time, including Messrs. Stares and Hart, knew of the nesting of the bird in the county.

But in the following year, 1890, Mr. Baring wrote to Kelsall as follows:—"Since writing to you, I am glad to say one pair have nested on the lake here. My attention was first called to the fact by a man employed in cutting weeds. I saw the old bird on the nest, and on the water within a few yards of me, as she left the nest. The nest was built in the thick branches of a dogwood bush, very little above the level of the water, like a coot's or moorhen's nest. She hatched safely."

In August, 1891, the same observer wrote to the "Zoologist" that two pairs bred there that summer:—"The first nest contained twelve eggs, all of which hatched, and I still see the old duck about continually with her brood, which consists of nine. The second nest I was never able to find, but I see the old bird about with her brood of four." He mentions that the brood of the previous year was hatched in an old coot's nest.²

In June, 1892, also, two broods were hatched in the same locality,³ but in 1893 no nests were found there.⁴

However, in the last-mentioned season Mr. Stares discovered a new nesting locality in the neighbourhood of

¹ "Field." February 8th, 1879.

² "Zoologist." September, 1891.

³ "Zoologist." January, 1893.

⁴ "Zoologist." August, 1894.

Fareham, where he saw a female and one young one on August 7th.¹

In 1896 Dr. Bowdler Sharpe wrote that he had noted it in pairs at Avington at the end of May, and believed that some remained to breed there,² and in the same month of the following year two birds were unfortunately shot at Alresford.³

For years past this species has been a regular winter visitor to the lake at Laverstoke, generally from ten to twenty individuals, which arrived in October, and remained until April, and in 1899 a pair remained to nest, since which date they have bred regularly in that neighbourhood.

The first nest was discovered in May, 1899, on one of the islands, a yard from the water's edge, beneath the boughs of a box-bush, and was composed merely of the dark chocolate-coloured down from the bird, mixed with a few dead leaves and bents. On May 27th there were ten eggs in the nest, when the duck began to sit, but *regularly* at 3.15 p.m. every day she left them to feed with the drake, and returned to the nest again at four o'clock; while the duck was sitting the drake was constantly in the vicinity of the nest; in fact, from watching the movements of the birds, it was possible to determine nearly exactly the position of it. On the duck being disturbed from her nest the excitement and alarm of the drake were considerable.

In August of the same year a female was seen with two fully-grown young at Laverstoke, and on September 23rd a young male was shot at Overton.

¹ "Zoologist." August, 1894.

² "Lloyd's Natural History."

³ "Zoologist." October, 1897.

About the same time Sir Charles Shelley reported that the bird nested regularly at Avington, as is recorded in the "Victoria History of Hants"; and in 1904 Sir Herbert Maxwell wrote in the "Pall Mall Gazette," that "there was at least one brood reared on the lake at Alresford, though whether they escaped destruction by the pike that do greatly abound in that water deponent sayeth not."

A sixth locality may be added in the Test above Quidhampton Mill at Overton, which is now a favourite resort of this species all the year round. A brood of fully-grown young were seen below the Mill on September 1st, 1904, and an adult male and a young female were shot.

On July 17th, 1904, whilst we were searching an island in the lake at Laverstoke, a female tufted duck was first noticed swimming hurriedly across the open water, followed closely by seven young ones not more than a week old. She took up a position under some overhanging boughs near the shore, where she remained quite motionless with the young ones clustered together behind her. When disturbed from this spot she swam quickly away with the young ones following her closely, and when at last too nearly approached—within about six yards—she fluttered wildly away, uttering harsh "kraking" notes, the young instantly diving and coming up again some distance off, in various directions, then whilst they were seeking fresh cover near the shore by a succession of dives, the duck flew backwards and forwards just over the surface of the water, "kraking" continually to divert attention from the young. When the intrusion on her domain was over she collected her brood from beneath the bushes overhanging the water, whence they joined her in small detachments, and then conducted them away to safer quarters; the drake never put in an appearance the whole time.

These birds pair in March, and are very silent as a rule, except in the pairing season, when their rather harsh croak is frequently uttered. Their trivial name "curre" is given them from their cry.

Munn has noted that when diving they seldom remain below the surface longer than half-a-minute.

This is one of the few breeding species added to our list since the publication of Kelsall's catalogue.

179. *Fuligula marila*. Scaup.

A regular winter visitor on the coast, and common. It rarely occurs inland.

There is a specimen in the Alton Museum, which was shot on King's Pond at that place.

180. *Fuligula ferina*. Pochard.

DUN-BIRD. RED-HEADED POCHARD OR CURRE.

POKER.

A winter visitor, probably nesting in a few places.

White includes this species among his winter birds of passage.

Hawker mentions that he shot them on several occasions at Alresford (Lord Rodney's), and at Longstock and Hurstbourne, but at Keyhaven he considered "a dun-bird a *rara avis*."

In his fifty years' bag he accounted for sixty-four.

Wise says that it is known on the coast as the "red-head" and "ker"—or as we prefer to spell it, the "curre."

At the present time it seems to be an increasing species, and is found in equal numbers on the coast and on our inland waters.

Mr. Stares saw a flock on the coast near Portchester on September 20th, 1897,¹ and Mr. Meade-Waldo has seen large flocks on Fleet Pond²; but it occurs more usually in small numbers, especially in association with the tufted duck.

Unlike that species, however, it chooses very inaccessible places for nesting, and our only authority for its actually breeding in the county is Mr. Hart, who assures us that it has nested regularly in the New Forest district since the year 1880.

Kelsall has seen the bird in summer on a lake in the New Forest, and the author of "The Birds of Dorset" mentions several breeding stations in that county, one of them being quite near to our borders.

Munn has noted a specimen at Laverstoke on August 4th, 1893.

GENUS—*Nyroca*.

181. *Nyroca ferruginea*. White-eyed Duck.

A rare accidental visitor.

Mr. Corbin tells us, on the authority of Mr. J. Mills, that one was obtained at Bisterne, near Ringwood, about the year 1875.

¹ "Zoologist." March, 1897. ² "Victoria History of Hants."

The pair in the Hart collection are dated February, 1881.

Mr. Chalkley, the well-known naturalist of Winchester, informed Mr. Sutton Davies in 1891 that he knew of a specimen obtained at Ovington not long before.

Lord Portsmouth, writing to Kelsall in February, 1893, says that during the previous December he shot in the osier-beds at Hurstbourne "what appears to be the ferruginous duck," and adds that it was being preserved.

This species is omitted from Mr. Meade-Waldo's list.

It is a native of Eastern and Southern Europe and the temperate parts of Asia, visiting India in the cold season.

GENUS—*Clangula*.

182. *Clangula glaucion*. Golden-eye.

A winter visitor to the coast, occasionally straying to inland water.

Colonel Hawker mentions shooting examples at Alresford—on January 18th, 1826, "one golden-eye, one morillon"—but on a later date, February 13th, 1829, on shooting two golden-eye off Keyhaven, in a note he says, "The golden-eye is here provincially called 'gingler' or 'ginging curre' from the noise of its wings. Bewick speaks of the morillon; and Leadbeater, our great London ornithologist, laughs at him, and says that what he calls the morillon is only the golden-eye, which never is in high feather till a certain age, and even then not till the spring of the year. So one or the other must be wrong." His total bag was twenty-one.

Females and young males of this species are still known to many gunners as "morillons," and are more plentiful than adult males, which are distinguished by them as "golden-eyes."

This bird has occurred on Wolmer Pond in January, 1883 (Reid); and there is an immature specimen, killed at Stockbridge in 1881, in the Winchester collection.

GENUS—*Harelda*.

183. *Harelda glacialis*. Long-tailed Duck.

A rare winter visitor to the coast.

The Rev. Dr. Arnold has recorded its occurrence at Emsworth in 1860.

There is a pair in the Hart collection procured in the district on January 6th, 1879.

Hawker does not appear to have come across it.

Bury mentions it as having occurred in the Isle of Wight.

It is a native of Northern Europe, Asia and America, which migrates southward in winter.

GENUS—*Somateria*.

184. *Somateria mollissima*. Eider Duck.

A rare winter visitor to the coast.

Hawker writes¹ that "the only three I ever heard of on the Hampshire coast appeared in the severe winter of 1838.

¹ "Instructions to Young Sportsmen."

I stopped them all, though got but one, as the other two beat me in a sea." From his "Diary" we find that the exact date was January 11th.

Bury mentions specimens obtained about the same time, and More gives the dates of February, 1855, and December, 1859.

The specimens in the Hart collection were obtained on December 5th, 1870, and February 6th, 1884, and Mr. Pearce and Dr. Arnold have recorded occurrences on our south-eastern coast.

Dr. Cowper says ¹ that it only occurs in the most severe and protracted winters.

GENUS—*Edemia*.

185. *Edemia nigra*. Common Scoter.

An abundant visitor to the coast during the winter, rarely straying inland.

Mr. Meade-Waldo says ² :—"A certain number of non-breeding birds may be seen throughout the summer."

In Hawker's time they cannot have been as plentiful as in the present day, for in his "Diary" on January 28th, 1829, he writes :—"Saw two scoter ducks, birds I never met with before, except stuffed in museums, blew off a cartridge and floored them both ; and had a chase of more than an hour before we could get near enough to finish, with a detonating musket, one of them which was winged, though I had three boats with me."

¹ "Hants Court Guide."

² "Victoria History of Hants."

In his bag of wild fowl for fifty years, he only accounts for these two.

Dr. Sclater has recorded its occurrence at Basingstoke, in 1845,¹ and Mr. Corbin, at Ringwood.

Dr. Cowper mentions the presence of an immense flock off the east end of the Isle of Wight during the severe winter of 1894-95.²

186. *Ædemia fusca*. Velvet Scoter.

An occasional winter visitor to the coast.

Hawker, in his "Diary" of February 17th, 1840, says:—"Went off again about two, when it was quite calm, and rowed off in Channel, where I made a capital shot at six black velvet ducks. I floored the whole of them at about 120 yards. The only dead one floated out past Hurst, where I dare not follow him."

He mentions four having been procured between 1802 and 1853.

Mr. Hart has a pair in his collection, obtained January 15th, 1881.

There is also a pair in the Hartley Institute at Southampton, labelled "from Hampshire."

In Lord Malmesbury's collection, at Heron Court, is a pair from the county.

Dr. Cowper³ states that it only rarely occurs off the coast of the Isle of Wight.

¹ "Zoologist." 1845.

² "Hants Court Guide."

³ "Hants Court Guide."

GENUS—*Mergus*.187. *Mergus merganser*. **Goosander.**

DUN-DIVER.

A winter visitor, and not uncommon during hard weather, more especially on inland waters.

Adult males are rather scarce, females and young males being more usual.

Our first records are from Gilbert White's "Journal":—

"January 14th, 1789. A goosander and a dun-diver, a duck and a drake of the same species (*Mergus merganser*) were brought me . . . shot on the stream at Hedleigh."

Hawker does not appear to have known the bird, but there are a female and a young male in the Heron Court collection, killed at one shot on the Stour in January 1836, besides a female obtained in the same locality on January 9th, 1891.

Bury mentions a fine adult male shot on a pond at Knighton in the winter of 1841-2.

Wise was informed by Rake of a male and two or three females killed near Fordingbridge in the winter of 1855.¹

Specimens have occurred at Milcourt, Alton (Alton Museum), and at Froyle (Bell's edition of "White").

The specimens in the Hart collection are dated December 24th, 1879, and February 14th, 1882.

Two were shot out of a flock at Stockbridge in January, 1881 (Winchester College Natural History Society's Report).

¹ "New Forest."

The Winchester College Museum contains an example obtained at Stockbridge in 1891, and a fine male was shot out of a lot of seven at Alresford during the same season (Baring).

Dr. Cowper mentions an adult female shot on a pond near Sandford, in the Isle of Wight,¹ and Mr. Meade-Waldo has on several occasions seen female birds on Hatchett Pond, in the New Forest.²

188. *Mergus serrator*. Red-breasted Merganser.

A winter visitor.

More plentiful than the last, but usually visiting the coast, and not so often found on fresh water.

The occurrence of this species in the county is first recorded in Gilbert White's "Journal":—

"December 9th, 1774. *Mergus serratus*, the dun-diver, a very rare bird in these parts, was shot in James Knight's ponds, just as it was emerging from the water with a considerable tench in its mouth. Its head and part of the neck was of a deep rust colour. On the back part of the head was a remarkable crest of the same hue."

In the Hart collection are specimens procured on January 26th, 1878, and in October, 1879.

Lord Malmesbury has a pair in his collection at Heron Court from the district.

A specimen in the Alton Museum was obtained on King's pond, in that parish. It has also occurred at Fleet.³

¹ "Hants Court Guide." ² "Victoria History of Hants."

³ "Zoologist," 1872.

A female was procured at Broughton, near Stockbridge, on January 8th, 1894 (Davies).

Mr. Meade-Waldo has observed non-breeding birds in the summer.¹

Wise says it is known to the fishermen at Christchurch as the "razorbill."²

In the Isle of Wight it only approaches the coast in severe weather, and adult birds are rare.³

189. *Mergus cucullatus*. Hooded Merganser.

A very rare accidental visitor.

A very fine adult male is in the Hart collection at Christchurch, which was shot in the neighbourhood by Aaron Chief, in the winter of 1854.

There is also another adult male in Lord Malmesbury's collection at Heron Court, and it is unfortunate that no particulars are obtainable concerning this very rare specimen, beyond the fact that it is said to have been procured in the district.

It is a native of North America.

190. *Mergus albellus*. Smew.

An irregular winter visitor to the coast.

A specimen in the Heron Court collection was shot on the Stour by the second Earl of Malmesbury, during very severe weather, on January 20th, 1823.

¹ "Victoria History of Hants." ² "New Forest."

³ "Hants Court Guide."

Hawker writes in his "Diary," on January 15th, 1830: "Made a long flying shot with a musket at a lough-diver, or female smew, a bird that I have long wanted for my collection." In a footnote he adds: "The first I ever saw, or heard of, on our coast."

Bury says that it has been met with occasionally off the Isle of Wight.

A young male, just changing to adult plumage, was added to the Heron Court collection in 1838.

Wise notes¹ that it is to be seen on the Avon during hard winters, and records one, on the authority of Rake, as killed at Breamore in November, 1855.

In the Hart collection are specimens killed on January 18th, 1876; February, 1864; January 24th, 1881; and January, 1891, which last year he notes as remarkable for the number which appeared.

It has also occurred on our south-east coast. (Kelsall).

ORDER—COLUMBÆ.

FAMILY—*Columbidae*.

GENUS—*Columba*.

191. *Columba palumbus*. Ring-Dove.

WOOD-PIGEON.

"Round her brows
A woodland culver flits."

Tennyson's "Progress of Spring."

A very common resident in all districts in the county and in the Isle of Wight.

¹ "New Forest."

Numbers of migrants arrive in the autumn and pass the winter with us ; in hard weather these great flocks clear off the green leaves of the root crop as closely as if they had been fed off by sheep ; they also visit the beech and oak woods, and search among the dead leaves for the fallen beech-mast and acorns.

Gilbert White, in his Letter xliv. to Pennant, dated from Selborne, November 30th, 1780, also mentions the vast quantities of wood-pigeons that abounded, and the damage done to the root crops by them. He writes : " But of late years, since the vast increase of turnips, that vegetable has furnished a great part of their support in hard weather. . . . From this food their flesh has contracted a rancidness which occasions them to be rejected by nicer judges of eating, who thought them before a delicate dish. They were shot not only as they were feeding in the fields, and especially in snowy weather, but also at the close of the evening, by men who lay in ambush among the woods and groves to kill them as they came in to roost. These are the principal circumstances relating to this wonderful internal migration which with us takes place towards the end of November, and ceases early in the spring. Last winter we had in Selborne high wood about a hundred of these doves ; but in former years the flocks were so vast, not only with us, but all the district round, that on mornings and evenings they traversed the air like rooks, in strings, reaching for a mile together. When they thus rendezvoused here by thousands, if they happened to be suddenly roused from their roost trees on an evening—

‘ Their rising all at once was like the sound
Of thunder heard remote.’ ”

He did not find them interesting pets, for he writes of their

"displaying a strange ferocity of nature, so as scarcely to bear to be looked at."

Bury also¹ found them uninteresting pets, with listlessness their striking characteristic.

Contrary, however, to these experiences, Munn has successfully reared several young ones, and has found that they displayed unusual attachment to their owner, even to following him about the premises, though to other persons they displayed their "strange ferocity of nature," to the extent of snapping their beaks and flapping their wings against the hand stretched towards them.

In the nesting season they are found most plentifully in the coppices of larch and spruce-fir in the Central Hill district, and in the enclosures of fir-trees in the New Forest.

On October 26th, 1892, Munn found a nest with two half-grown young in a chesnut tree, then bare of foliage ; and on March 22nd, 1905, a pair of fully-fledged young, nearly ready to fly, were found in a nest at Laverstoke.

Thousands of these birds were noticed at St. Catherine's Lighthouse on the morning of November 15th, 1901, passing from east to west in calm, clear weather.

192. *Columba ænas*. Stock-Dove.

A resident, universally distributed.

Nowhere very plentiful, nor occurring in such numbers as the ring-dove, but in winter associating with that bird, in small parties, from which they separate, however, in February, when they pair, and frequently have eggs by the middle of March.

¹ "Zoologist." 1845.

Some of our old writers called this the wood-pigeon or wild pigeon, and others confounded it with the rock-dove, so that there is some ambiguity about its former history.

It is plain, from numerous remarks by Gilbert White, that it did not nest at Selborne in his time.

In his Journal of November 24th, 1770, he writes :—

“Stock-doves . . . leave us all to a bird in the spring,” and he notes several years in succession that “wood-pigeons are the last bird of passage to appear.”

In his Letter xxxix. to Pennant (November 9th, 1773), he calls it the common wild pigeon, and says that it “is a bird of passage in the south of England, seldom appearing till towards the end of November; is usually the latest winter bird of passage. Before our beechen woods were so much destroyed, we had myriads of them, reaching in strings for a mile together as they went out in a morning to feed. They leave us early in spring; where do they breed?”

In his Letter xliv. to Pennant he gives many excellent reasons for believing that the domestic pigeon is derived, not from this species, but from the rock-dove.

The stock-dove, he says, “as long as it stays with us, from November perhaps to February, lives the same wild life with the ring-dove . . . ; frequents coppices and groves, supports itself chiefly by mast, and delights to roost in the tallest beeches.”

He ventures to doubt Pennant’s report of the bird’s nesting in Sussex, “because people with us perpetually confound the stock-dove with the ring-dove.”

He adds that he had consulted a sportsman, then in his seventy-eighth year, “who tells me that fifty or sixty years back . . . the number of wood pigeons was astonishing

. . . . He moreover adds, which I was not aware of, that often there were among them little parties of small blue doves, which he calls rockiers."

In this case we have no doubt that the large flocks consisted of ring-doves and the little parties of stock-doves, which are still called blue rocks by many Hampshire people.

For many years after White's time the stock-dove was considered to be only a winter visitor to Hampshire. Thus, in Garrow's "*History of Lymington*" (1825), we read "they leave us as soon as the hard frosts are over."

Neither Gilpin nor Hawker throw any light on the question, though a single specimen is credited to Hawker's bag in 1803.

But when Wise takes up his pen (1862), he calls the stock-dove "numerous" in the New Forest, "building in the holes of the old beech-trees."

And not long afterwards Bell found the bird nesting in the very grounds of White's old house. "A pair of them (he says) have built in the old pollard ash, in the hole formerly occupied for years by the barn owls This was in April and May, 1867. They bred again the following year in the same place. I have repeatedly heard their peculiar coo in the breeding season for several successive years."

From that time forward the bird has become spread over the whole county, including the island. Mr. Howard Saunders remarks, in the Fourth Edition of *Yarrell*, that it "nests in abundance in the holes of the wooded crags near Ventnor," and Dr. Bowdler Sharpe has obtained many specimens for the British Museum at Avington.

In the Central Hill district it frequently nests in

rabbit-burrows, on the coast of the New Forest in the low sandy cliffs, and on Portsdown Hill in the earthworks of the fortifications.

Occasionally it builds an open structure in a tree, like that of the ring-dove; old squirrels' and magpies' nests are frequently occupied by it, and three eggs have rarely been found in one nest.

Concerning this species, the following letter¹ passed between Charles Kingsley and the great Darwin, written from the Grange, at Alresford, on January 31st, 1862:—“What started us on you and your theory was the shooting in the park of a pair of ‘blue rocks,’ which I was called to decide on. There were several men there who knew blue rocks. The Duke (Argyll) said that the specimen was different from the blue rock of the Hebrides. Young Baring, that it was different from the blue rock of Gibraltar and of his Norfolk rabbit-warrens (which I don't believe, from the specimens I have seen, to be a blue rock at all, but a stunted stock-dove, which breeds in rabbit-holes), and I could hardly swear that this was a blue rock (as the keeper held), till I saw but very weakly developed the black bars on the wing coverts.”

Darwin's reply to Kingsley was:—“With respect to the pigeons, your remarks clearly show me (without seeing specimens) that the birds shot were the stock-dove, *C. ænas*, long confounded with the cushat and rock pigeon.”

¹ “Life of Kingsley.” Vol. ii., p. 135.

193. *Columba livia*. Rock-Dove.

BLUE ROCK.

A rare accidental visitor, formerly resident in the Isle of Wight.

The visits of this bird in a truly wild state are now exceedingly few and far between, and always in winter.

Sir Richard Worsley writes in his "History of the Isle of Wight" (1781):—"Adjoining to Yaverland is a steep cliff, called Culver Cliff (Culver from the Saxon 'culppe,' a pigeon; and the number of those birds that harbour there well entitle it to the name of the Pigeon Cliff)."

More mentions¹ that two were obtained at Freshwater in November, 1857.

Hadfield writes² that though he had heard of their being seen about our cliffs, it was not recorded for fear of mistake. "But," he says, "I can no longer doubt it; one of my informants has observed them accompanying the daws, and another saw a small flock fly out of the same cliffs, and from his description they could be no other than the rock-dove." These remarks are dated November, 1865.

In the Hart collection are specimens dated 1871 and 1875.

Mr. Meade-Waldo had a flock of pure wild birds from County Kerry, which used to flight from Lymington to the island, but eventually all disappeared.

Dr. Cowper³ says that "two birds, undoubtedly of this species, have been inhabiting the cliffs between Luccombe and Shanklin this summer (1896 or 1897), but whether genuine blue rocks or partially wild birds it is impossible to say."

¹ "Birds of the Isle of Wight." 1860. ² "Zoologist." 1866.

³ "Hants Court Guide."

GENUS—*Turtur*.**194. *Turtur communis*. Turtle Dove.**

A common summer visitor to all parts of the county and Isle of Wight.

It arrives in May and departs in September or the beginning of October.

If attracted by any quantity of food it sometimes associates in small flocks.

We have known instances of three eggs being laid in one nest.

From the Needles Lighthouse we have notes of one killed at 2 a.m. on May 1st, 1902 ; and another on the 6th of the same month, at 4 a.m. ; and one caught at 2 a.m. on August 30th.

ORDER—PTEROCLETES.

FAMILY—*Pteroclidæ*.GENUS—*Syrrhaptes*.**195. *Syrrhaptes paradoxus*. Pallas's Sand-Grouse.**

A very rare accidental visitor.

Remarkable numbers of this species visited Britain in the years 1859, 1863, 1872, 1876, and 1888, but only two of these immigrations appear to have invaded Hampshire.

Specimens were obtained at Aldershot in 1863 (Rev. M. A. Mathew).¹

In 1888 they occurred in all parts of the county, in-

¹ "Zoologist." 1863.

cluding the Isle of Wight. Two birds killed at Itchen Abbas on May 15th were the first of this irruption to be recognised in England.

After this, and chiefly during the months of May and June, they were observed at Winchester, Overton, Hurstbourne, Ringwood, Bournemouth, Christchurch, Stubbington, Hayling, Wolmer, Aldershot, and Freshwater.

In many districts they remained for weeks, and indeed Mr. Hart informs us that some were to be found in the neighbourhood of the New Forest until May, 1889.

Hayling Island also proved an attractive resting-place. The late Mr. William Jeffery informed Kelsall that three specimens were obtained there as late as December, 1888, and January, 1889.

The Stubbington example was dated December 14th, 1888,¹ and the Freshwater specimen was obtained during the autumn of that year.²

The disappearance of the bird from our district was caused partly by a vigorous persecution, and partly by unsuitable soil and food, and inclement weather.

It is a native of the steppes of Central Asia.

¹ "Zoologist." February, 1889. ² "Zoologist." January, 1889.

ORDER—GALLINÆ.

FAMILY—*Phasianidæ*.GENUS—*Phasianus*.**196. *Phasianus colchicus*. Pheasant.**

Naturalised and resident throughout the county and Isle of Wight.

In his "History of Hampshire" the late Mr. Shore tells us that it was introduced by the Romans.

In Gilbert White's time it abounded in the manor of Selborne,¹ and the covert at the upper end of Bean's pond was sometimes frequented by them in the winter.²

In 1773, there was evidently a scarcity of them, for in a footnote to his Journal he remarks . . . "Pheasants are very scarce . . . we abound usually in pheasants."

In his Journal of October 2nd, 1790, he describes the plumage of a hybrid between a blackcock and a pheasant, which was figured in several editions of his work, the original picture being still in the possession of the White family.

In the district around Longparish, Colonel Hawker latterly found it a *rara avis*, and it is not surprising, considering how he hunted, and was not satisfied until he had killed, every one that strayed on to his ground, without a thought of leaving any to breed. The appearance of one on his, or his neighbour's, estates, was the signal for the assembly of an army of beaters to bring it to bag. Thus, on October 7th, 1819, he writes in his "Diary,"—"Heard of a cock pheasant, which nowadays is like a wild

¹ Letter v. to Pennant.² Letter viii. to Pennant.

beast on my property, and in half an hour came home with two fine old cock pheasants, I having found another with the one reported, and bagged them both ;” and on October 1st, 1821—“Not a pheasant on my estate, so no more covert shooting.”

In the next season three appeared there on October 23rd, and “before night I had all three in the larder, after giving me and my banditti a chase that was superior to an average fox hunt.”

His bag for fifty years—from 1802 to 1853—amounted to 575 birds, but they seem to have decreased from the year 1819.

Of the New Forest, Gilpin wrote in 1834¹ “they greatly abound in many parts of the Forest. In the manors of Beaulieu, Fawley and other places, where they are protected, they multiply beyond belief. They are often seen in flocks feeding like poultry in the fields.”

Now, in most parts of the true Forest, though their numbers are somewhat limited, Mr. Meade-Waldo says² that of late years they have greatly increased.

In the present day Hampshire rivals any part of England as a game-producing county, and the record for pheasants killed in one day is held by the Earl of Carnarvon, at Highclere.

In the Isle of Wight mention is made of the preservation of pheasants and partridges in Henry VIII.’s reign, thus³ :—“1538—Richard Worsley, Esq., on the death of Sir James, his father, in the twenty-ninth of Henry the Eighth, succeeded him in the office of Captain, and soon after had the honour of entertaining the King at his seat

¹ “Forest Scenery.”

² “Victoria History of Hants.”

³ “History of the Isle of Wight,” by Sir Richard Worsley. 1781. (Page 93.)

at Appuldurcombe.”—“(The King probably made this visit to amuse himself with hawking, or some other species of chace, as it appears by a curious letter, copied in the Appendix, that he had, some time before, given strict orders for the preservation of the game in the Royal demesne. See Appendix, No. xxxvii.).”

“Appendix, No. XXXVII., p. lxxxvii. 1541.

HENRY VIII.

Order from Henry VIII. under his Sign manual to Richard Worsley, Esq., Captain of the Isle of Wight, to prevent any Pheasants or Partridges being killed in the Isle of Wight.

Trusty and welbeloved we grete yo^u well and being crediblye enfourmed that o^r Games of Partriche and Fesant w^t in our Isle of Wight is much decayed by the prmission and sufferance of suche lewd Prsons as for their pryvate Lurres contrary to our Lawes and Pleasure doo dailye w^t Netts and other Engyns take the same. Yo^u shall undrestande that myndyng to havie the said Games of Ptriches and Fesant cherished w^t in our saide Isle as wel for our Disporte and Pastyme if we should chance to repayre thither As for our Furniture at Sundry our Honor^s Manors and Houses which from tyme to tyme We entende to replenishe w^t the Score of the same Isle as nede shall requyre Our Pleasure and Commandement is that yo^u shall not only uppon Monicon to be by yo^u hereof gyven to the inhabitaunts of the said Isle have diligent Regarde and Vigilant Eye that no man of no Degree or Condicon kill any Fesant or Partriche w^t Net, Engyne or Hawke on any our propre Lands in the same Isle, taking the Netts and Engyns of all such as shall attempte the contrary and further punishing the Ptyes soe offending as to your wisdom shal be thought convenyent. But also that yo^u shall advise all the rest of the Owners and Inhabitants there at o^r Contemplation also to spare the same Games in their owne Grounds, speally absteynyng to take or suffire to be taken any Fesant or Partriche w^t Netts and such Engyns as totally destroyeth the Brede of the same wherein yo^u shall doo unto us acceptable service. And thiese our Lres shall be your sufficient Warraunt and Discharge in that Behalf.

Geven undre our Signet at o^r Manor of Otland the 19th daye of Decembre the 32 yere of o^r Reign.”

In the Island, in the present day, they flourish very well, wherever there is suitable covert.¹

GENUS—*Caccabis*.

197. *Caccabis rufa*. Red-legged Partridge.

FRENCH PARTRIDGE.

A resident, and common in many parts of the mainland, but very rare in the Isle of Wight. An introduced species.

At the present time this bird is common in the Central Hill district and in the New Forest, but not in the Northern Woodlands.

The bird was introduced into the eastern counties about the year 1770, and quite close to our borders, at Harting, in Sussex, in 1776. In that year (so the "History of Harting" informs us) Sir Henry Fetherstonhaugh imported from France several sittings of the eggs of *Perdix rufa*; and in the subsequent correspondence between him and his mother we learn that the hatching was perfectly successful, and that several coveys were bred in the walled gardens attached to Harting Place and in the Park.

We might have supposed that they would have soon reached such a congenial spot as Wolmer Forest, but they certainly did not, for we find no trace of them in the journals and letters of White. The author of the "History of Harting" also tells us that they had vanished from the district by the middle of the next century, nor is there any mention of the bird in Hawker's works, except with reference to the county of Suffolk.²

¹ "Hants Court Guide."

² "Diary of Colonel Peter Hawker." Vol. i., pp. 13, 14.

An importation on the other side of the county also appears to have been unsuccessful, for Wise¹ records in 1862, that the late Mr. Baring, of Somerley, introduced them many years ago ; "but very few, if any, are left."

It was in the "sixties" and "seventies" that this bird first obtained a footing in the county, and Mr. Charles Evemy, of Burley, one of the forest agisters, informs us that he remembers placing about a hundred and fifty eggs of this species in the nests of the common partridge on the Heron Court Estate in the year 1867, by Lord Malmesbury's orders. He believes that they were introduced at Beaulieu a few years earlier ; and here, so the Hon. John Scott-Montagu tells us, they have existed from about the year 1864, since which time they have greatly increased, and are now widely distributed both in the woods and in the open country.

Bell, writing in 1877, calls it rare, but mentions its occurrence at Holybourne, near Alton, and Mr. Harting, writing in the "Field" in 1883, records examples from Petersfield, Butser Hill, Liss, Alresford and Thruxton.

In the Isle of Wight it is still extremely rare.

More only knew of two examples, "both single birds, and probably stragglers from the mainland ;" but we are informed that a few examples have lately been procured at Ramsdown and Loverston, which are considered to have been introduced from eggs mixed with those of the common partridge.

Mr. Witherby saw a pair below Hedon Hill, near Totland Bay, in April, 1905.

¹ "New Forest."

GENUS—*Perdix*.198. *Perdix cinerea*. Partridge.

“ . . . The moanings in the forest, the loud brook.
 Cries of the partridge like a rusty key
 Turn'd in a lock, owl-whoop and dor-hawk-whirr
 Awoke me not, but were a part of sleep . . . ”

Tennyson's " Lover's Tale."

Resident and universally distributed in all districts in the county and Isle of Wight.

Gilbert White writes that it abounded in his day at Selborne,¹ and in his description of Wolmer Forest says : ² “ Partridges in vast plenty are bred in good seasons on the verge of this forest, into which they love to make excursions ; and in particular, in the dry summers of 1740 and 1741, and some years after, they swarmed to such a degree, that parties of unreasonable sportsmen killed twenty and sometimes thirty brace in a day.”

He mentions ³ an instance of “ a sportsman, whose zeal for the increase of his game being greater than his humanity, after pairing time he always shot the cock bird of every couple of partridges upon his grounds, supposing that the rivalry of many males interrupted the breed : he used to say that, though he had widowed the same hen several times, yet he found she was still provided with a fresh paramour that did not take her away from her usual haunt.”

In the remarkable frost of January, 1776, they were so thinned by the weather and poachers that few remained to breed the following year.⁴

¹ Letter v. to Pennant.

² Letter vi. to Pennant.

³ Letter xxix. to Pennant. Selborne, May 12th, 1770.

⁴ Letter lxii. to Barrington.

In Letter xiv. to Barrington he notices the common habit of the old birds feigning lameness to divert attention from their young brood.

In Hawker's time the bird was always fairly plentiful on his estate; he obtained 7,035 between 1802 and 1853.

Of the New Forest Gilpin says¹ that it "is sometimes found in the forest; but it is chiefly when she is hunted by men and dogs from her favourite haunts, being an inhabitant of the cultivated parts rather than of the wild scenes of the forest."

Throughout the county, since the introduction of driving them for shooting, they have increased enormously—owing to strict preservation—more so than in any county in England. On Lord Ashburton's estate, near Alresford, the greatest number of partridges ever killed in one day have been shot by this means.

GENUS—*Coturnix*.

199. *Coturnix communis*. Quail.

A rather scarce summer visitor to all districts in the county, occasionally occurring in winter.

In the Isle of Wight it is rare.

Since Gilbert White wrote²—"Quails crowd to our southern coast, and are often killed in numbers by people that go on purpose"—they have greatly diminished in numbers.

In the manor of Selborne he says—"There are

¹ "Forest Scenery." 1834.

² Letter xiii. to Pennant. Selborne. January 22nd, 1768.

few quails, because they more affect open fields than enclosures." ¹

Hawker usually obtained a few birds at the beginning of September, at Longparish, when partridge shooting.

It has nested, amongst other places, at Catherington, Alresford, Petersfield, Wherwell, Andover, Whitchurch, Binley, Overton, and at various places in the New Forest.

In the Isle of Wight Bury says ²: "R. Loe has known it to breed once at Newchurch; a few years ago a bevy was fallen in with early in September in the parish of Whitwell. Mr. Simeon writes, dated December 30th, 1844, of a bevy near Ryde many years ago and one killed by Mr. Jolliffe at Bowcombe, about six weeks since. One was caught by a dog at Newchurch last autumn. Mr. Butler, of Yarmouth, caught one a few years back on Christmas Day."

In the museum at Newport are two eggs from a clutch of nine found on Kingston Farm, Chale, and presented to the museum, September 8th, 1855, by A. C. Hallatt, but if they belong to this species they are certainly most abnormally coloured specimens.

Dr. Cowper ³ says it is very uncommon and is usually seen singly. He shot one in September, 1893.

Among the records of its occurrence in winter are the following:—

One shot at Whitfield Wood, Isle of Wight, in January, 1859.

One shot in the Undercliff, Ventnor, in November, 1888. (Hadfield, "Zoologist," 1889.)

One seen at Porchester on December 31st, 1889,

¹ Letter v. to Pennant.

² "Zoologist." 1845.

³ "Hants Court Guide."

and one caught there on December 12th, 1892.
(Stares, "Zoologist," 1893.)

One shot on Portsdown Hill on November 6th, 1897.
("Zoologist," 1898.)

FAMILY—*Tetraonidæ*.

[GENUS—*Lagopus*.

Lagopus scoticus. Red Grouse.

Miss Rose Kingsley sent the following interesting note to the "Standard" on January 18th, 1899:—

"After reading your article to-day on the naturalization of the red grouse, allow me to give a reason (pointed out to me in childhood by my father, Charles Kingsley) why the grouse is absent from the southern moors of Hampshire and Berkshire. It does not depend upon 'open moors or the slopes of mountainous hills overgrown with heather or ling, together with heaths and bracken fern,' else it would flourish in North Hants and South Berks.

"The late Prince Consort introduced the red grouse into those outlying portions of ancient Wolmer Forest round Swinley, Easthamstead, Bagshot, and the adjoining well-known fighting ground of Hartfordbridge Flats, over Eversley. But in all these localities the one thing needful is lacking, that undergrowth of berry-bearing *myrtacæ* on which the red grouse chiefly feeds. Hence the gradual and complete extinction of the birds in this district."]

GENUS—*Tetrao*.**200. *Tetrao tetrrix*. Black Grouse.**

HEATH-POULT. BLACK COCK. GRAY HEN (FEMALE).

Resident in the New Forest district only.

This is an indigenous species, and has never quite died out in the New Forest; but the recent colony in Wolmer Forest was the result of importation, as detailed below, and such also is the origin of stray birds occasionally found in other parts of the county.

Gilbert White wrote of it in Wolmer Forest¹: "But there was a nobler species of game in this forest, now extinct, which I have heard old people say abounded much before shooting flying became so common, and that was the heath-cock or black-grouse. When I was a little boy I recollect one coming now and then to my father's table. The last pack remembered was killed about thirty-five years ago, and within these ten years one solitary gray hen was sprung by some beagles in beating for a hare. The sportsman cried out, 'A hen pheasant'; but a gentleman present, who had often seen black game in the North of England, assured me that it was a gray hen."

It was re-introduced into Wolmer Forest by Sir Charles Taylor, then ranger of the forest, from Cumberland.

Major Cowie, who has recently had the charge of Wolmer Forest, informed Dr. Bowdler Sharpe, about the year 1899, that he believed there were none now left in the district, since he never saw one, alive or dead.

¹ Letter vi. to Pennant.

In Mr. J. H. Gurney's collection is an adult male from this district.

In the "Hants Court Guide" Dr. Sclater says he has seen it in former days both in Wolmer Forest and where Aldershot Camp now is.

Gilpin, writing in 1834,¹ says :—" It scorns the enclosure and all the dainties of the stubble. The wild forest is his only delight, and there his pleasures lie more in its open than its woody scenes. This bird was formerly found in great abundance in New Forest ; but he is now much scarcer, though he has the honour which no other bird can boast, of being protected as royal game. To this day, when the chief justice in eyre grants his warrants to kill game in the forest, he always excepts the black cock, together with red and fallow deer."

The story of White's hybrid between the black cock and pheasant is well-known. The following extract from Garrow's "History of Lymington" (1825) is not so familiar : " A gentleman resident in the neighbourhood of Beaulieu has furnished the public with some interesting observations on the subject of these birds, through the medium of . . . the Annals of Sporting, in an article headed, ' A Race of Hybrid Birds in the New Forest.'

He therein proves, beyond contradiction, that the black cock will hold communion with the common domestic hen, and that he has at this time several specimens, the production of this intercommunity, on his farm."

There is a cross between a black cock and a pheasant in the Hart collection, dated January 16th, 1884, and another was shot near Lyndhurst, in March, 1891, as reported by Mr. F. Bradburne in the "Field."

¹ " Forest Scenery."

Wise, writing of this species in his "New Forest" in 1862, says it "feeds on the young shoots of heather and larch, seeds of grass, blackberries, and acorns, and I have seen it repeatedly perching on the hawthorns for the sake of the berries. The 'heath poult' of the Forest."

The Earl of Malmesbury has two specimens in his collection, one of which was killed by Mr. Herbert Gilbert in Pussex Copse; the other also from the district, but without any particulars.

Dr. Rake has eggs of this bird in his collection which were taken near Fordingbridge.

Mr. Meade-Waldo gives full particulars in the "Victoria History of Hants" (1900), of the distribution of this species in the New Forest, but says: "The stock now is almost entirely confined to the northern portions of the Forest, and it is hard to estimate their numbers, but they are, unfortunately, few. Two or three broods at least are reared in a year, perhaps more, so there is a possibility of the stock being revived again, and it is ardently hoped that it may be."

Mr. John Stares informs us that there was once a colony of black game on the east side of Southampton, about Titchfield Common, which only became extinct when the common land was enclosed.

The Earl of Portsmouth attempted to introduce this species on his estate at Hurstbourne, and he has kindly given us the following particulars:—"I imported some live black game from Northumberland, where they were hatched and reared under hens; they were turned down as young birds here in September. I had one good brood the following year in the outer park, which is across the water, and bounded by the Andover Lodge.

The birds, however, would not stay; they were carefully

protected, and my neighbours were anxious not to disturb them either. One was shot, but the others, including those bred here, were never heard of. The fact proved was that black game will breed on a wild chalk ground, where there is no heather at all. My impression is that they strayed across to Harewood Forest and fell victims to vermin."

A gray hen from Crawley, near Winchester, 1882, is in the Winchester College collection.

[*Tetrao urogallus*. Capercaillie.]

The Hon. Gerald Lascelles, Deputy-Surveyor of the New Forest, tried to introduce this species into the New Forest; and he informs us that the attempt was made about 1886 and 1887, but it failed, and they were never fairly turned out.]

ORDER—FULICARIÆ.

FAMILY—*Rallidæ*.

GENUS—*Rallus*.

201. *Rallus aquaticus*. Water-Rail.

BROOKRUNNER.

Resident in suitable localities throughout the county, and in some places not uncommon.

In the Isle of Wight it is naturally less common. Bury considered it a winter visitor only; but More knew that a few pairs nested on the island; and Mr. Poole, of

Shanklin, informs us that he meets with it most often in spring and autumn, when no doubt it is on migration.

Munn says it is particularly common in the valley of the Test, and has been more than usually abundant during the winter of 1904-5. He noticed one feeding daily in an empty watercourse, that used to rush for refuge, when disturbed, into a short pipe drain; another fed in the middle of the road at Overton, and, instead of running for refuge into the nearest hedge, would rise straight off the road and fly over it.

He has also seen it feeding in the open meadows, like a moorhen; and its quaint attitudes, when alarmed, and preparatory to its fleeing into cover, are remarkable.

It cannot be called a wary bird, though it is shy of observation.

Other well-known haunts are the Itchen Valley and the New Forest district.

Hawker shot fifty in as many years.

GENUS—*Porzana*.

202. *Porzana maruetta*. Spotted Crake.

A very local resident.

The bird is sometimes reckoned as a scarce summer visitor, but considering its very secretive habits and its frequent occurrence in winter, we think that the above description is more correct.

It is pleasant to be able to begin our history of this species, with two extracts from the unpublished Manuscript Journal of Gilbert White—

"November 4th, 1774. The *Rallus porzana* or spotted water-rail, a rare bird, was shot in the sedge of Bean's pond. This was the first of the sort that I ever heard of in these parts. I sent it to London to be stuffed and preserved. A beautiful bird." And

"August 26th, 1777. A spotted water-hen shot in the Forest."

Then from Longparish Colonel Hawker in his "Diary" takes up the tale September 16th, 1811. "Twelve snipes and one water-crake (or spotted gallinule). Besides another water-crake and three snipes shot and lost in the high reeds so that I knocked down fifteen snipes and two water-crakes out of eighteen shots. We found three couple of the latter birds, which I consider a great curiosity, as I never saw but three before in all my life, and all of these were in different years and different countries. I never met with any in Hampshire before, although the water-rails here are very numerous."

October 27th, 1817. "I killed in fifteen shots: nine snipes, three partridges, one spotted gallinule and one water-rail," and in his list of game killed in September, 1847, is one spotted gallinule."

Total bag in fifty years, three.

In Lord Malmesbury's collection at Heron Court is a specimen caught by a dog on November 19th, 1828, in a trench in the Upper Dudmoor.

Bury mentions one caught in Bordwood Forest on October 1st, 1842, one killed in February, 1844, and six others, all killed in the Isle of Wight in the winter.

More says that it has not yet been ascertained to nest in the Island, "though likely enough a pair or two may linger" in certain suitable localities.

Wise also "would not be surprised to hear of its

breeding in the New Forest. It has been seen both in summer and winter."

Mr. Hart calls it a summer visitor, and has adult specimens obtained in 1870 and 1876, and a young bird in 1879.

In the "Zoologist" of 1890, Mr. O. V. Aplin collected a large amount of information as to the distribution of this species, in which task he was assisted by various naturalists in this county.

Mr. Hart wrote to him in March of that year:—

"It is rather common in this part of Hants. They arrive here towards the latter part of March, the 20th being the first entry of its occurring in this month. Towards the last week of September and the early days of October I always find them about the rushy places in the harbour, and have flushed as many as five at this time of the year in a morning's walk Occasionally some stay longer and may perhaps remain all the winter. I have killed one in January, 1863, and another December, 1869. I have frequently found their nest with eggs, and in July, 1872, I caught some young ones in down, only a few days old. On June 14th, 1881, also, I captured some with just the feathers on wings and shoulders showing."

Mr. Corbin's dates for the neighbourhood of Ringwood include the months of April, May, September, October, and November.

Among modern records are the following:—

One at Headley, near Alton, no date. (Bell's edition of White).

One killed at Newton Stacey, where it is certainly a resident, in November, 1884.

Three in September, one in October, and two in November, 1888. (Corbin.)

Two at Newton Stacey in 1889. (Turle.)

One at Tipnor, near Portsmouth, in September, 1889.
(Pearce).

One at King's Worthy, 1890. (Winchester College Museum.)

One killed against the telegraph wires at Itchen Abbas, September 9th, 1892. ("Zoologist." 1893.)

One at Marwell Hall, near Owslebury, no date.
("Zoologist." 1893).

Two at Chilbolton, 1897. (Dewar).

One at Stockbridge, October 4th, 1904. (Dr. Loveless).

203. *Porzana bailloni*. Baillon's Crake.

A rare occasional visitor.

In the Hart collection at Christchurch are specimens procured in the district in September, 1863; October, 1866; June, 1875; July, 1886.

204. *Porzana parva*. Little Crake.

A rare occasional visitor.

Mr. Hart has specimens in his collection at Christchurch, obtained on October 22nd, 1866; and May 18th, 1885.

There is also a specimen in Lord Malmesbury's collection at Heron Court from the district.

Mr. J. G. Millais informed Kelsall in 1889, that he had a specimen obtained at West Liss, near Petersfield.

GENUS—*Crex*.205. *Crex pratensis*. **Corn-Crake.**

LAND-RAIL.

“The meadow-crake
 Grate her harsh kindred in the grass.”
Tennyson’s “The Princess.”

A common summer visitor to all parts of the county, including the Isle of Wight, occasionally remaining for the winter, more especially in the Island.

Gilbert White wrote in his Journal in October, 1789 :—
 “A man brought me a land-rail or daker-hen, a bird so rare in this district that we seldom see more than one or two in a season, and those only in autumn.”

Mr. Harting remarks¹ that the scarcity of the bird at Selborne in White’s time is not a little remarkable. “It is by no means scarce there at the present day. In September, 1863, the writer, while shooting . . . within ten miles of Selborne, killed three brace in one day. . . . If the species were not really overlooked by White, owing to its skulking habits, the increase in its numbers in the district . . . must be attributed to the alteration which has taken place in the mode of cultivating the surrounding farms, and the greater attraction now afforded to the bird in the way of food and shelter.”

We do not think that White could possibly have overlooked the bird if it had been nesting in Selborne. We know that he was well acquainted with it at Oxford and elsewhere.

¹ White’s Selborne. Harting’s Edition, p. 328.

Hawker's total bag in fifty years was fifty-six.

Mr. Dewar mentions¹ twelve and a half brace being killed by one gun in a few days' partridge shooting in the north of the county.

Kelsall has not heard a corn-crake for the past seven years in Milton, but has seen one in spring, and he believes that it occurs there regularly in the autumn. During the summer of 1904 there was certainly an unusual scarcity of this species throughout the county.

In the Isle of Wight the bird is not so common as on the mainland, but very large numbers sometimes occur in September. Bury mentions eighty-five being killed in one season, and forty in one afternoon.

Dr. Cowper² says a good number are shot every autumn.

Mr. Poole says it nests sparingly, but it is abundant in autumn.

One or two have been obtained in mid-winter in the island (More), and three were killed near Ringwood, in December, 1890. (Corbin).³

[GENUS—*Porphyrio*.

Porphyrio caeruleus. Purple Gallinule.

One obtained at Redbridge in February, 1864. (Reeks, "Zoologist." 1866.)

One shot on the Hamble River in 1867. (Hawker, "Zoologist." 1867.)

One procured at Basing in 1889. (Sclater.)

¹ "Wild Life in Hampshire Highlands," p. 237. ² "Hants Court Guide."

³ "Zoologist." May, 1891.

Porphyrio martinicus. Martinique Gallinule.

One was killed in August, 1863, by Mr. C. Stares, in a marsh at Grange, near Gosport. ("Zoologist." February, 1890.)

It is very doubtful if any of the above occurrences are of genuine wild birds.]

GENUS—*Gallinula*.**206.** *Gallinula chloropus.* **Moor-hen.**

WATER-HEN.

A very common resident everywhere throughout the county and Isle of Wight.

The bird frequently appears, and even nests, in very unlooked-for situations. It often seeks its food at some distance from its usual haunts, and when disturbed takes refuge in bushes, or among ivy, remaining concealed in the foliage.

In 1903, numbers of moor-hens ascended the Bourne, as far up as Hurstbourne Tarrant, retreating again to the lower waters as the stream dried up and their food disappeared.

It does not visit salt water, but is often found plentifully on fresh or brackish streams and ditches quite close to the sea.

Miss Yonge¹ tells the story of one which came down a cottage chimney, and was brought to her as a rare foreign specimen.

¹ "John Keble's Parishes."

GENUS—*Fulica*.207. *Fulica atra*. Coot.

BALD COOT.

Resident in all parts of the county, but thinly distributed.

A certain migratory movement of this species is noticeable everywhere in the winter, and at this season large flocks sometimes visit the estuaries and the sea-coast, many of the birds, no doubt, from inland waters.

In the Isle of Wight it is scarce in summer, though a few pairs now breed in the marshes near Brading, but it is plentiful in winter.

It is not a bird to be encouraged, as it is quarrelsome and aggressive, and increases at the expense of the other species.

In the British Museum there is a nest from Avington.

Mr. Corbin remarks ¹ that the coot has greatly decreased upon the Avon within his memory.

Hawker's bag was forty-eight in fifty years.

ORDER—ALECTORIDES.FAMILY—*Gruidæ*.GENUS—*Grus*.208. *Grus communis*. Crane.

A very rare accidental visitor.

In the Hart collection at Christchurch is a specimen shot at Iford by Mr. Bullock, in 1852.

¹ "Zoologist." 1893.

There are no records to show that this species was ever plentiful in the county.

FAMILY—*Otididæ*.

GENUS—*Otis*.

209. *Otis tarda*. Great Bustard.

A rare accidental visitor, formerly resident.

The indigenous race of bustards is quite extinct and we can hear of no authentic Hampshire specimen now in existence. Since the time of its extinction, however, stragglers have occasionally wandered to our shores from the Continent.

In the Isle of Wight it has not occurred.

Mr. Dewar¹ quotes "Chafin, the author of a book of anecdotes, etc., relating to Cranbourne Chase, which in his time extended into Hampshire, records how in November, 1751, whilst living at Wallop, he managed one day to kill five dotterels out of a flock of twelve when out shooting on the downs. The report of his gun scared a flock of no less than twenty-five bustards, which flew over Southern Hill. Having returned to his inn, loaded his gun with swanshot and put a new flint in it, he mounted his horse and went in pursuit of his noble quarry. 'But my mind misgave me at the time that it would turn out a mere wild-goose chase. When I had come to the brow of the hill over which I had seen them pass I rode very cautiously, looking carefully before me, when on a sudden I espied them nearly within shot, and

¹ "Wild Life in Hampshire Highlands," p. 23.

they espied me also and rose for flight. The motion of their wings frightened my horse, he started back, threw me down, and ran away.' Chafin adds that when he got up he had a shot at the birds."

Gilbert White relates¹ on one of his annual journeys from Fyfield—under the date November 17th, 1782,—“Spent three hours of this day, viz. : from one o'clock till four, in the midst of the downs between Andover and Winton, where we should have suffered greatly from cold and hunger had not the day proved very fine, and had we not been opposite to the house of Mr. Tredgold's down farm, where we were hospitably entertained by the labourer's wife with a cold spare-rib and good bread-and-cheese, and ale, while the driver went back to Andover to fetch a better horse. During our long conversation with the dame, we found that this lone farm-house and its buildings, though so sequestered from all neighbourhood, and so far removed from all streams and water, are much annoyed with Norway rats. The carter told us that about twelve years ago he had seen a flock of eighteen bustards at one time on that farm, and once since then only two. This is the only habitation to be met with on these downs between Wherwell and Winchester."

White also made the remark when, on February 13th, 1770, he saw bustards on Salisbury Plain, that “when seen on the downs they resemble fallow deer at a distance."

The “Hampshire Chronicle” of March 9th, 1795, tells us that—“A bustard, or wild turkey, was lately shot at Froyle, Hants. It is a very beautiful bird, and measures near 7 feet when the wings are extended."

¹ “Gleanings in Natural History.” Second Series, by Edward Jesse.
(Gilbert White's MSS.)

Mr. Harting kindly called our attention to the following, in Daniels' "Rural Sports," suppl. p. 574 :—"In July, 1806, two gentleman's servants observed near Ringwood Forest a large puttock-hawk suddenly pitch from the air among some furze, and not seeing him rise again, were led by curiosity to examine what kind of prey he had caught, and which was a young bustard weighing nearly seven pounds."

Probably one of the last of this race of indigenous bustards was that mentioned by Wise,¹ which "was seen, about twenty-five years ago, by one of the Forest keepers, near Eyeworth Wood; but, though on horseback, he could not overtake the bird, which ran across Butt's Plain, aiding itself by flapping its wings."

More² included the County of Hampshire in the breeding range of this species.

Mr. Johnson, proprietor of the "Hampshire Chronicle," kindly sent us the following record of a straggler of this species from the Continent—Mr. J. Bourne, of Ampfield House, Romsey, wrote to the "Field" on January 10th, 1891—"On taking up our positions on the edge of a Kohl rabi field on January 2nd, for driven partridges, we were surprised to see what appeared to be a wild goose rise from the centre of it, and fly in the opposite direction very slowly. About half an hour later the same bird came over my stand, about twenty yards up, affording an easy shot, and was bagged. I found it to be a female bustard. It weighed 10 lb., measuring 5 feet from tip to tip of wing, and was in good plumage."

During the winter of 1890-91 no less than seven bustards, all females, were procured in various parts of England.

¹ "New Forest." 1862.

² "Distribution of Birds in Great Britain During the Nesting Season."
"Ibis," 1865.

210. *Otis tetrax*. Little Bustard.

A rare accidental visitor from Southern Europe.

A female, now in the Earl of Malmesbury's collection at Heron Court, was shot by Lord Palmerston at Broadlands in September, 1810:—"It was in a turnip-field; it rose and pitched again, flying heavily, and had a strong and most remarkably unpleasant smell when killed."¹

A female was shot on January 4th, 1873, in a turnip-field on Mr. Twitchin's farm, near Whitchurch, and afterwards presented to the British Museum.²

A very fine female was shot on January 2nd, 1875, near Arreton, in the Isle of Wight, by the Rev. H. M. Langdale and Mr. H. Jacob:—"They first flushed it in a turnip-field, and followed it from field to field, firing one or two long shots at it, till they lost sight of it. After a time they came across it again, squatting close to the ground in a bare stubble field, when it rose within easy range of one of the guns, and was brought down." It is now in the collection of Mr. Langdale, the gentleman who shot it.³

Five other specimens were procured in England during the same winter. Another was shot on January 9th, 1879, near Portsmouth Harbour, between Fareham and Gosport, by Mr. M. Dexter, who reported the occurrence in the "Field" on the 25th of the same month.

In 1897 Mr. Metcalfe, of Roche Court, Salisbury, flushed a bird, which the Rev. A. Morres thinks must certainly have been a little bustard, out of the turnips in a field about two miles south of Grateley Station; it passed so close that there was no difficulty in seeing its colour and markings distinctly.

¹ Lord Malmesbury's MSS. Notes. ² H. Reeks, in the "Zoologist." 1873.

³ Cowper, in "Hants Court Guide."

ORDER—LIMICOLÆ.

FAMILY—*Ædicnemidæ*.GENUS—*Ædicnemus*.**211. *Ædicnemus scolopax*. Stone-Curlew.**THICK-KNEE. GREAT PLOVER. CURLEW. NORFOLK
PLOVER.

“Till the great plover’s human whistle amazed
Her heart, and glancing round the waste she fear’d
In every wavering brake an ambuscade.”

Tennyson’s “Geraint and Enid.”

A summer visitor, usually arriving in April and departing in October, but occasionally remaining throughout the winter in the Isle of Wight.

On the bare downs and large fields of the Central Hill district this bird is, happily, still plentiful, and both old and young assemble in large flocks in early autumn before migration.

In the Northern Woodland district, which is unsuited to its habits, it is naturally scarce.

In the New Forest district and in the Isle of Wight it is seldom seen except on migration.

Dwellers in the central portion of the county may still repeat the words written by White more than a hundred years ago¹:—“I wonder that the stone-curlew should be mentioned by the writers as a rare bird; it abounds in all the champaign parts of Hampshire (and Sussex), and breeds, I think, all the summer, having young ones, I know, very late in the autumn. Already they began

Letter xv. to Pennant. Selborne. March 30th, 1768.

clamouring in the evening. . . . With us, by day, at least, they haunt only the most dry, open, upland fields and sheep-walks, far removed from water."

We have never observed this bird on the mainland on such early dates as those mentioned by White.

In 1788, for example, he notes in his Journal that "stone-curlews clamour on the 27th of February; and on March 1st, after it was dark, some were passing over the village, as might be perceived by their quick short note, which they use in their nocturnal excursions by way of watchword, that they may not stray and lose their companions. Thus we see, that retire whithersoever they may in the winter, they return again early in the spring, and are, as it now appears, the first summer birds that come back. Perhaps the mildness of the season may have quickened the emigration of the curlews this year."

And again in March, 1790, he writes that they are "the earliest summer birds," whereas in former years he had given the place of honour either to the chiff-chaff or the wryneck.

White never wearied of observing and describing the habits of this bird, and all Hampshire people, especially those who live in the curlew country, should be familiar with his admirable description. Some recent observers living at Selborne have fancied that the species has disappeared from the neighbourhood; Professor Bell, for example, says that, although he had occasionally heard its cry, he had never seen one, alive or dead, in thirty years.

But we have good reason to believe that it still nests within a very short distance of the historic village. For some reason or other the stone-curlew has developed not only highly protective colouring but also very suspicious

and wary habits, and is frequently overlooked by casual observers.

At the present time they return year after year to the same fields and slopes of the downs, and though many eggs are destroyed when the young wheat is rolled, they usually manage to rear a brood.

The modern successor of White can well sympathize with the delight with which he must have visited the curlew's lonely haunts on the downland, and listened to its wild note echoing from all sides, in the quiet of a summer's evening.

But even before White's time, in 1666, Merrett wrote, in his *Pinax rerum naturalium Britannicarum*: "Stone curlew, delicatissima avis ex agro Hantoniensi Ds Hutchinson, Ornithopola Londinensis."

There is now no need to specify every locality where the bird is to be found. Its breeding-area reaches to the borders of the county on the north-west, and as far as Romsey towards the New Forest. On the east side we might mention Basingstoke, and various places on the county-boundary as far south as the Forest of Bere.

The stone-curlew does not appear to nest in the New Forest, at least not on the south side of it, but is often seen there at the periods of migration. Mr. Meade-Waldo, for example, mentions a specimen picked up under the telegraph wires at Boldre, in the severe frost of 1895.

There is a special interest relating to the visits of this bird to the Isle of Wight, because it appears to be better known there in winter than at any other season. Bury mentions that a nest was found on the Wacklands Estate, near Newchurch, more than sixty years ago, but he reckons it only an occasional visitor; he speaks of a party of six which appeared in Bordwood Forest during the first week

of November, 1843, and says that R. Loe has seen it much later in the year.

More also considers it as a winter visitor to the Island.

One was shot at Freshwater, he says, in the winter of 1854, and another at Bembridge, in the late autumn of 1857.

Hadfield's notes in the "Zoologist" agree generally with this testimony. He records one procured near Ventnor, in November, 1884,¹ and two received by Smith, of Newport,² dated respectively April 28th and November 7th, 1887.

Dr. Cowper also³ calls it a rare winter visitor, and remarks that it may occasionally be seen high in the air, passing overland, by those who are accustomed to its flight.

Hawker only slew five in his fifty years, but one of them had a history. He mentions in his "Diary," on July 7th, 1813, "one stone-curlew, which I killed (on my return from waiting for the deer) late at night, by calling it close to me with imitating its whistle."

FAMILY—*Glareolidæ*.

GENUS—*Glareola*.

212. *Glareola pratincola*. Collared Pratincole.

A very rare accidental visitor from Southern Europe.

The specimen in the Hart collection was killed by Lieutenant Henn at Barton, in the Parish of Milton, near Christchurch, in 1857.

¹ "Zoologist." March, 1885.

² "Zoologist." January, 1889

³ "Hants Court Guide."

The "Zoologist" also contains the following record, written by a well-known naturalist, Colonel Fielden, from Aldershot, on November 25th, 1871 :—" A brother-officer of mine, Lieutenant Telfer, informs me that in the month of October, 1864, he was strolling along the beach of Stokes Bay, near Gosport, when he saw a bird fluttering along the margin of the shore, evidently maimed or very weary, as it was unable to fly but a few yards at a time.

Not having a gun with him he pursued it, throwing shingle at the bird, finally knocking it over, when it proved to be a fine example of *Glareola pratincola*.

Mr. Telfer took the bird home and preserved it, but the skin is no longer in his possession. Having shortly after gone abroad to join his regiment, he lost sight of the specimen, and now he can find no trace of it.

Mr. Telfer could have made no mistake in the species, for, besides being a fair ornithologist, he had just returned, in 1864, from Corfu, where the pratincole is abundant, and where he had procured and skinned many of the birds."

Mr. F. Smith, formerly taxidermist at Newport, but who now resides in Cowes, tells us of a specimen that once passed through his hands, many years ago, which was obtained in the Island.

FAMILY—*Charadriidæ*.

GENUS—*Cursorius*.

213. *Cursorius gallicus*. Cream-coloured Courser.

A very rare accidental visitor from Western Asia and North Africa.

A specimen in the Hart collection at Christchurch

was shot at Sopley, in 1845, by a shepherd in the employ of Mr. W. Tice.

GENUS—*Charadrius*.

214. *Charadrius pluvialis*. Golden Plover.

A winter visitor to most parts of the county, including the Island, and often abundant in certain localities.

Gilbert White calls this bird the green or whistling plover. His earliest date for it was November 13th. On November 14th, 1773, he remarks in his Journal, that "green plovers do not breed in these parts."

In the Central Hill district they frequently associate with flocks of peewits, but when put to flight the two species instantly separate.

On the New Forest heaths they have certain favourite spots, to which they return year after year.

They are not often procured in summer plumage.

GENUS—*Squatarola*.

215. *Squatarola helvetica*. Grey Plover.

A spring and autumn visitor to our coasts ; rarely seen inland.

When on the spring migration they have usually assumed the black-breasted breeding plumage.

Not so common on the Island coasts as on the mainland. Mr. V. Willett has a specimen obtained at St. Catherine's Lighthouse, on migration, on October 12th, 1893.

Mr. Meade-Waldo has seen large numbers at Hatchett Pond, in the New Forest, and Captain Reid has observed them at Fleet Pond.¹

GENUS—*Ægialitis*.

216. *Ægialitis cantiana*. Kentish Plover.

A rare occasional visitor, when on migration, to the coasts of the mainland.

In the Hart collection are specimens dated 1859, 1867, 1873 and 1874.

There is a young bird in Mr. J. H. Gurney's collection which was shot in Christchurch Harbour by the late Mr. J. H. Gurney.

This bird has not been recorded from the Isle of Wight.

217. *Ægialitis curonica*. Little Ringed Plover.

A very rare accidental visitor to the coast.

In the Hart collection are specimens procured in the neighbourhood of Christchurch, in August, 1860, and on April 28th, 1879.

An adult female, shot by H. Rogers at Freshwater in August, 1864, is in the Seebohm collection at the British Museum.

¹ "Zoologist." 1877.

218. *Ægialitis hiaticula*. Ringed Plover.

OX-BIRD.

A common resident on the coasts of the mainland, less common in the Isle of Wight, and rarely occurring inland.

When White notes in his Journal on July 24th, 1775, "A sea-lark shot at Newton Pond," he presumably refers to this species, which is so called by Pennant.

A specimen in the Alton Museum is dated "Alton, 1858."

Dr. J. E. H. Kelso, of Portsmouth, has described¹ a nest which he found in a field near the coast in that neighbourhood, made of bents, like a small peewit's nest, showing that the bird occasionally in this county departs from its usual habit of laying among the stones on the sea-shore.

More, writing in 1860, considered that this bird no longer nested in the Island, but Dr. Cowper reports that it certainly does so in the neighbourhood of Bembridge; and Mr. Woods, of Sandown, has eggs taken at Gurnard, in May, 1901.

It appears, in fact, to be an increasing species within our limits.

219. *Ægialitis vocifera*. Killdeer Plover.

A very rare accidental visitor from the American Continent.

The first specimen of this species ever procured in

¹ "Zoologist." January, 1902.

England was shot in April, 1859, in a potato field close to Knapp Mill, near Christchurch, by a man named Tom Dowden, and is now in the collection of Mr. J. Tanner.

Only two other examples have occurred in Britain.

GENUS—*Eudromias*.

220. *Eudromias morinellus*. Dotterel.

A rare visitor, during the autumn and spring migration, to certain uplands of the mainland and of the Isle of Wight.

Wise notes that "little flocks may be seen in the Forest in April, and again in autumn, but they only stay a few days."

More did not consider the bird sufficiently regular in its appearance in the Island to be ranked among his "birds of double passage," but he mentions occurrences in May on the downs near Shanklin and Freshwater, and at the latter place again in September.

Hadfield also has recorded two specimens obtained near Newport on September 7th, 1887.¹

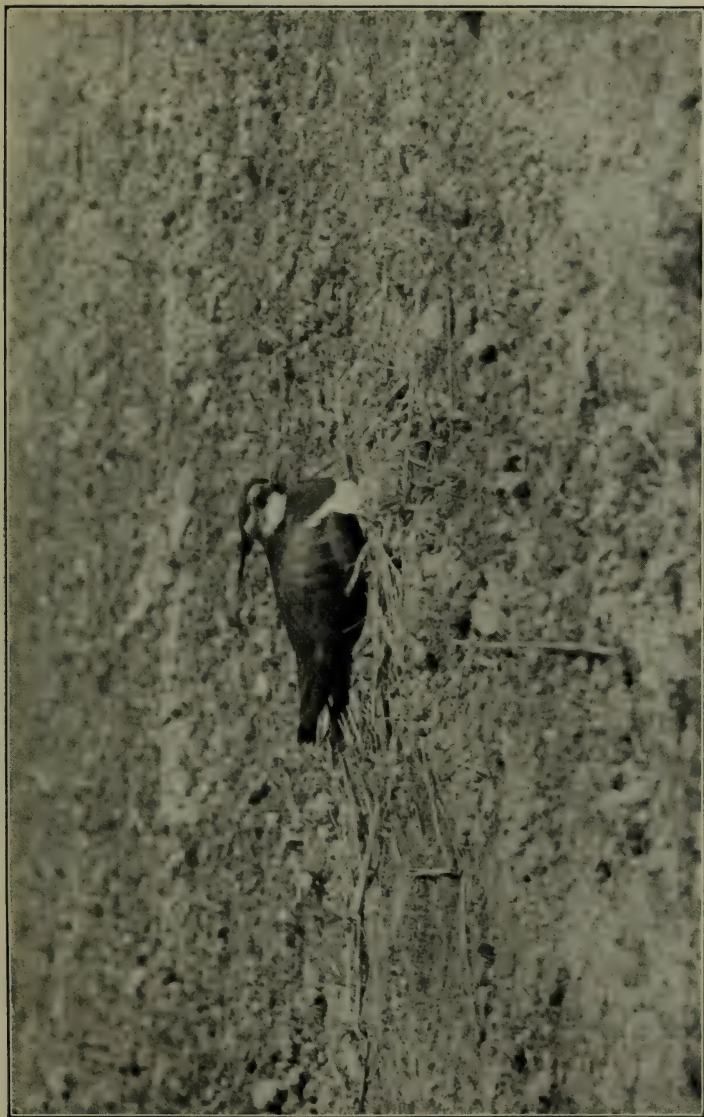
The bird appears regularly in May on the high ground east of Stockbridge, and less regularly on Bransbury Common.

On the other side of the county it has occurred at Kingsley,² and two individuals shot at Ovington by Captain Phelps on September 30th, 1893, are in the Winchester College collection.

It is, however, a species which has decreased considerably in late years.

¹ "Zoologist." January, 1889.

² Bell's Edition of White.



LAPWING ON NEST.

From a Photograph by Mr. Smith Whiting.

GENUS—*Vanellus*.**221. *Vanellus vulgaris*. Lapwing.**

PEEWIT. GREEN PLOVER.

“In the Spring the wanton lapwing gets himself another crest.

Tennyson's “Locksley Hall.”

A common resident in all parts, breeding in great numbers on the mainland, and less commonly in the Isle of Wight.

Gilbert White notes¹ that “soon after the lapwings have done breeding they congregate, and, leaving the moors and marshes, betake themselves to downs and sheep-walks.”

This remark is still true. They assemble in vast flocks every autumn, sometimes, as in 1904, as early as August; and during winter their numbers are still further increased by immigrants from the North.

In March, again, they separate and return to their nesting haunts, some few pairs resorting thither in the earliest days of the month.

Around the ponds on the downs and uplands of the Central Hill district, may often be discovered several young broods of peewits, led there by their parents soon after hatching.

Near Ipley, in the New Forest, Munn obtained in 1897, a clutch of *five* eggs of this bird, each egg having a zone, without any spots, round the middle; and the next year he procured precisely similar specimens from the same locality. Malformed and undersized eggs are not unusual.

¹ Letter xxxix. to Pennant. Selborne. November 9th, 1773.

GENUS—*Strepsilas*.**222. *Strepsilas interpres*. Turnstone.**

A winter visitor to our coasts. Fairly plentiful on the mainland, especially on the spring and autumn migration. Much less common in the Isle of Wight.

Wise remarks¹ that both male and female have been killed in summer plumage; one of Mr. Hart's specimens was obtained in August.

GENUS—*Hæmantopus*.**223. *Hæmantopus ostralegus*. Oyster-catcher.**

SEA-PIE. OLIVE.

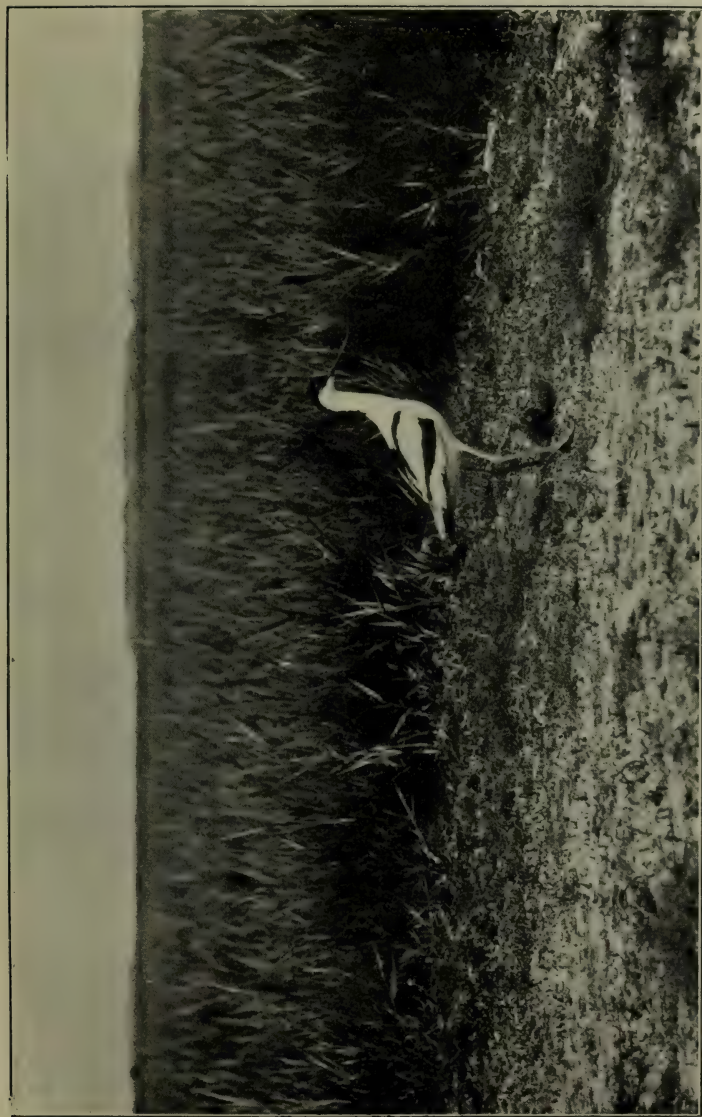
A winter visitor to all our coasts, but much more common during the autumn and spring migration, than in the dead season.

Like most of the waders, this bird is less common in the Isle of Wight, owing to the nature of the coast.

We cannot discern any authentic instance of its nesting within our limits at the present time, although it is said to breed both in Dorset and Sussex.

The bird occasionally strays inland, having been seen at Freefolk in the winter of 1882-3, and on another occasion at Longparish.

¹ "New Forest." 1862.



AVOCET.

From a Photograph by Mr. Smith Whiting.

FAMILY—*Scolopacidæ*.

GENUS—*Recurvirostra*.

224. *Recurvirostra avocetta*. Avocet.

A rare occasional visitor to the coast.

Our earliest record is from Longcroft's "Hundred of Bosmere," which mentions "the Avoset, as killed in Emsworth Harbour in the month of April, 1806, and again in the same month the following year: never before noticed."

Wise mentions one killed at Exbury, in December, 1858.

A specimen in the Winchester College Museum was killed by a bargeman named Bath on the Itchen, near Southampton, in 1865.

Mr. J. G. Millais has an example killed at Christchurch in May, 1868.

Messrs. W. Hart and Son wrote to the "Zoologist" in January, 1869, to record a specimen shot at Portsmouth in that month, and then in the possession of Major Breton. Colonel Irby informs us that no less than eighteen were seen in Southampton Water in September, 1880, of which twelve were shot, and the Rev. Dr. Arnold tells us that two were obtained at Emsworth in the following month.

Mr. Hart has two in his collection procured near Christchurch, on November 9th, 1885, and he saw a party of five in the harbour on September 29th, 1891.

Dr. Arnold informs us of another killed at Emsworth in 1898.

GENUS—*Himantopus*.**225. *Himantopus candidus*. Black-winged Stilt.**

An accidental visitor from Southern Europe.

The examples mentioned by Gilbert White belong to Surrey, and our first record is therefore the bird mentioned by Bury as having been obtained near Yarmouth early in the last century.

Yarrell gives William Borrer as his authority for the occurrence of a specimen near Havant.

Mr. Stares informs us that an example was killed at Grange, near Gosport, many years ago.

There is a male bird in the Hart collection obtained at Christchurch in July, 1873.

GENUS—*Phalaropus*.**226. *Phalaropus hyperboreus*. Red-necked Phalarope.**

A very rare accidental visitor.

In the "Zoologist" of March, 1883, Hadfield reported that a bird of this species, a little over seven inches in length, was received by Mr. Smith, the taxidermist of Newport, on October 29th of the previous year—"the first he had seen or heard of in the Island after twenty-one years' experience."

Kelsall did not consider this quite sufficient evidence for the admission of the species into his list, but the record is to some extent confirmed by the fact that several

specimens were obtained about the same time in Norfolk and Suffolk.

In the "Zoologist" of May, 1891, our friend Mr. Corbin, of Ringwood, had the pleasure of adding the bird to our list, with such particulars as to leave no doubt of the correctness of his identification. "On October 27th last," he writes, "a friend of mine was in the meadows, not far from the river, when he observed a bird, which he supposed, at first sight, was a wagtail, running about upon some weeds which were floating down the stream. On drawing closer . . . he saw there were two birds, one of which slipped off the weeds, and proceeded to swim towards the opposite bank of the stream, drawing its head over its back (to use the words of my friend) like a teal when it swims. He shot it, and I had the chance of seeing the elegant little bird while it was still warm; the other fortunately escaped.

At first sight any lover of birds would see it was a phalarope, regardless of its characteristic feet; but on comparison with a specimen of the grey species, which I chanced to possess, its specific differences were at once apparent, although the colours of both, being in winter garb, are somewhat similar.

The smaller size and more slender build of the red-necked one were noteworthy, and a closer look at the beaks of the two species seems almost to support the generic distinction which has been proposed; for whilst that of the 'grey' is broader and compressed towards the point, that of the 'red' is gradually tapering through its entire length from base to point.

The little bird in question weighed just one ounce, and on dissection it proved to be a male."

This species is omitted by Mr. Meade-Waldo.

227. *Phalaropus fulicarius*. Grey Phalarope.

An occasional visitor, usually during the autumn migration.

The author of the "Birds of Surrey" mentions a specimen which "dropped into a farmyard puddle," and remained for a week or two at Mr. Thresher's, at Bentley, near Alton, in the autumn of 1825.

Colonel Hawker shot one near Keyhaven on September 26th, 1839, another at Longparish on October 15th, 1846, and a third on the following day. He considered them rare birds.¹

Bury shot one in the Isle of Wight early in September, 1857.² A most remarkable invasion of this species took place in the autumn of 1866, of which the history has been written by Mr. J. H. Gurney.³ The birds appeared in various parts of England, particularly in the south, and nearly a hundred specimens were observed or killed in Hampshire alone, reaching from Aldershot and Bishopstoke to Christchurch and Andover, and to all parts of the Isle of Wight.

It was, presumably, a survivor of this immigration which was obtained at Selborne in the following May, and is now in the Alton Museum.

The Winchester College Museum contains specimens procured at King's Worthy and St. Cross in 1883.

Mr. Hart has numerous specimens in his collection, and mentions 1886 and 1891 as marked by large immigrations.

¹ "Diary of Colonel Peter Hawker."

² More. 1860.

³ "The Grey Phalarope in Great Britain during the autumn of 1866."

In October of the year last mentioned they appear to have been driven to our shores by a heavy gale. Mr. H. R. Leach saw about a hundred passing along the south of the Island towards the west, in parties of fifteen or twenty,¹ and Mr. Coles, of Milton, met with large numbers at Keyhaven, at the time when he obtained his Sabine's gull, and observed that they disappeared when the wind changed to the east.

The Island naturalists mention the bird as a frequent visitor during the autumn months. One was shot at Avington Park on September 15th, 1896²; and another was picked up in the road at Whitchurch a year or two later. (Hall.)

GENUS—*Scolopax*.

228. *Scolopax rusticula*. Woodcock.

A resident, somewhat thinly distributed throughout the county, including the Isle of Wight, and very largely reinforced in winter.

This bird was formerly reckoned by Gilbert White and others among the winter visitors, arriving in October, but the above description seems at the present time to be a more accurate one.

White remarks in his Journal on April 3rd, 1789, that "some woodcocks are now found in Hartley Wood; as soon as the weather grows a little warm, they will pair and leave us."

¹ "Field." October, 1891.

² Smith. "Zoologist." December, 1896.

In his eighth letter to Barrington¹ he writes :—“ Sure there can be no doubt but that woodcocks and fieldfares leave us in the spring, in order to cross the seas and retire to some districts more suitable to the purpose of breeding. That the former pair before they retire, and that the hens are forward with egg, I myself, when I was a sportsman, have often experienced. It cannot, indeed, be denied but that now and then we hear of a woodcock’s nest, or young birds, discovered in some part or other of this island ; but then they are always mentioned as rarities, and somewhat out of the common course of things.”

In the following letter² he suggests that the “strange laziness” which they sometimes showed might be “the effect of a recent fatiguing journey.”

It is evident from the perusal of his manuscript Journal that in all his forty years at Selborne he never came across an instance of the birds’ nesting in that neighbourhood, though Jesse, in his Second Series of “Gleanings in Natural History” (1836), mentions their breeding every year in woods adjoining Wolmer Forest, and his informant made a point of having some on his table on the 30th of June every year.

In another familiar passage³ White throws doubt upon Scopoli’s assertion that the bird carries its young in its beak (“pultos rostro portat”), remarking that its long, unwieldy bill “is perhaps the worst adapted of any among the winged creation for such a feat of natural affection.”

It is now well known, and has often been observed in this county, that the woodcock carries its young with its

¹ Dated Selborne, December 20th, 1770.

² Written from Fyfield, near Andover, February 12th, 1771.

³ Letter xxxi. to Pennant. Selborne. September 14th, 1770.

feet or legs, and that, if the beak is used, it is only for the purpose of steadying and supporting the burden.

In writing to Marsham, on March 20th, 1792, White relates that Lord Stawell had called on him a few days previously, and brought him a white woodcock, "milk white all over, except a few spots."

Warner,¹ writing in 1795—only two years after White's death—says of the Isle of Wight, that the woodcock is found "during the usual season of his visits to this part of Europe. Two or three stragglers generally arrive before the appearance of the great flock, which always manages to reach the land after sunset ; a well-informed friend, who is also a sportsman, informed me that one or two had been seen this year as early as the middle of September, but instances of this premature advent are by no means common. They continue here till the latter end of March after which time it seldom happens that they are met with. One or two pair, indeed, have been known to remain and breed, as has been the case, though rarely, in some other parts of the kingdom."

After an interval of a very few years, Colonel Hawker, in his "Diary," takes up the history of our Hampshire woodcocks, and betrays more agitation concerning them than would be shown in these days. On January 25th, 1810, for instance, after mentioning that he had shot one from his windows at Longparish, he remarks that they were so scarce in that neighbourhood that he had but rarely killed three in a whole season.

On November 15th, 1822, he notes :—" A great bustle through the house in consequence of a man having run in with information of a woodcock. I marched against

¹ " History of the Isle of Wight."

him, followed by a rabble, and in a few minutes flushed him and bagged him"; and on January 5th, 1827:—"I this day started for Keyhaven. Just as I left the yard at Longparish I was called off after a particularly large woodcock, which, after several hours' search and a hard fag, I contrived to pocket the first shot. A great victory over the usual bad luck of Friday, and a magnificent bird to begin the new year with."

Again, on November 26th, 1838, at Longparish, he "was suddenly called off after a woodcock; away I went in the snow, got wet through, and at the same time perspired with heat from the tremendous long chase I had with two woodcocks, which kept all my banditti on the run for nearly three hours, as they were so very wild; but I bagged them both at last."

In the Ninth Edition of his "Instructions to Young Sportsmen," dated 1844, he writes that since the cold easterly winds have prevailed in spring, it is now quite common for woodcocks to breed in England, and that he himself had seen a nest with four eggs "last summer" at Arnewood, which is on the border of the New Forest, near Sway.

Supposing this occurrence to refer to the year 1843, the date agrees closely with a note quoted by the author of the "Birds of Surrey," from the "Zoologist" of that year, to the effect that "there are nests annually in the Holt Forest," which is just within our eastern borders.

In the meantime the birds were well known to nest occasionally in the Isle of Wight. Bury writes: "An old bird and four young were found by a keeper in a wood between Swainston and the sea, in April, 1834.

In the same year a nest with eggs was found in Parkhurst Forest. A gentleman named Robinson, formerly

resident in the Island, has in his collection woodcocks in every stage of growth, from the egg to the full-fledged bird.

Occasionally—(he adds)—in the spring, flights, apparently on their way from the south, drop in the woods on the north side of the Island. Forty were found one day in Parkhurst Forest in the spring of 1844.”

He also incidentally confirms Hawker’s date as regards the birds nesting, reporting that one of the New Forest keepers knew of four nests there during the spring of 1844.

Mr. Thomas Gulliver, of Horsebridge Hill, near Newport, tells us that when he was ranger of Parkhurst Forest, there used to be a good many there, and the most he ever saw was—in three days’ shooting—40, 35, 35. Also he has found several nests and seen dozens of young ones, and has seen the old bird “catch up one and fly into a bush with it, and return again for another.” From about 1844, they, no doubt, nested commonly in the New Forest. The late Duke of Beaufort tells us¹ that he came upon a female woodcock watering her three young at a rivulet in the Forest in 1850. “She picked up one in each claw and flew off with them. I hid in a high gorse-brake close by, and saw her return in four or five minutes and pick up the remaining bird also in her claw.”

The Hon. Grantley Berkeley wrote²:—“Ah! what is that wounded bird that has flown up from the low bushes beneath yon woodman’s feet, and fluttering for the space of twenty yards, seems able to fly no further, but lighting on a bare spot full in sight, sits with extended wings, and shaking them as if in pain? That is a woodcock en-

¹ Fur, Feather and Fin Series. “Snipe and Woodcock.”

² “Reminiscences of a Huntsman.” 1854.

deavouring to lead the intruder either from its nest or young ones.

No, it can't be that. There is another bird just like it, with its prey in its claws ; it has risen, and carried the bird it was eating some distance further on. That is no bird of prey, but the mate of the woodcock, and being with her young, and tending one of them in an exposed situation, she has carried it to a place of safety. On looking at the formation of the woodcock's feet, people would think this was impossible ; but it is nevertheless a fact, and by holding their heels pressed on either side of the young bird, their long toes thus extended downwards, a purchase is obtained, and they carry the burden easily, though hanging lower than a hawk permits his prey to hang when carrying it in his talons.

From observations I have made, I feel convinced that the woodcocks carry their young to the swamps and feeding-places from the dry spots in the woods where they are invariably bred. . . . I never knew the young to exceed four in number, and when the young are so carried from place to place, and put down at a given spot, I think an old bird always remains with the first that is so transported, to see (the site being strange) that it does not stray away."

In the collection of Dr. Rake, of Fordingbridge, are eggs taken at Somerley in 1855, and near Linwood, in the New Forest, in 1857. In the same collection also is another clutch of four eggs taken at Islands Thorn, on July 18th, 1898,—an unusually late date for these birds to lay.

Wise, writing about 1862, says,¹—"Many a time in

¹ "New Forest."

the cold days of March have I seen the woodcocks in the new oak plantations of Wootton, carrying their young under their wings, clutching them up in their large claws. Here on the ground they lay their eggs, which are of the same colour as the withered oak-leaves,—a dull ochre spotted and clouded with brown, and thus easily overlooked.” He also says it “breeds in great numbers in some seasons.”

Mr. Meade-Waldo,¹ writing in 1900, says that although the bird has increased as a breeding species, it has become less common as an autumn migrant, “there having been no good woodcock year since 1895.” He mentions eighty-eight in three days in two New Forest enclosures, in January, 1886, as being the best bag in recent years.

He attributes their increase in summer to the greater quiet which prevails in the coverts in early spring.

As the bird now nests sparingly throughout the county, there is no need to mention all the recorded localities.

They extend on the north to Highclere and Farleigh, near Basingstoke, from which place Dr. Sclater has sent eggs to the British Museum. On the east to the forests of Wolmer, Holt and Bere; on the south to Emsworth and Titchfield, and on the west to the furthest boundaries of the New Forest district.

From St. Catherine’s Lighthouse we have had recorded about a dozen of this species on November 15th, 1901, at 10.15 p.m., hovering round the light.

¹ “Victoria History of Hants.”

GENUS—*Gallinago*.**229. *Gallinago major*. Great Snipe.**

An occasional visitor, chiefly in autumn and winter.

Our oldest records relate to the Isle of Wight, where Bury met with three or four specimens in the "forties" or earlier.

The oldest specimen in the Hart collection is dated October, 1849, the others August 9th, 1876, September 16th, 1878, September 14th, 1880, and August 27th, 1883.

Wise remarks that one or two may be seen in the Forest every winter.

The Earl of Malmesbury's collection includes a local specimen, and Mr. J. H. Gurney also possesses an example from Christchurch.

Mr. Corbin has recorded a specimen killed near Ringwood on October 12th, 1901. It weighed exactly eight ounces, and appeared to be "a mass of oily fat." ("Zoologist," November, 1901.)

On the other side of the county examples have been met with at Bishopstoke (Bowers), Portchester and Wicor (Stares). Dr. Loveless shot one at Stockbridge on October 4th, 1904.

230. *Gallinago cœlestis*. Common Snipe.

FULL SNIPE.

" . . . and greens

The swamp, where humm'd the dropping snipe,
With moss and braided marish-pipe."

Tennyson's "On a Mourner."

A local resident on the mainland, largely reinforced in

winter. Now only known as a winter visitor to the Isle of Wight.

Unlike the woodcock, this bird was well known as a nesting species to Gilbert White, who wrote that numbers bred every summer "in some moory ground" on the verge of the parish of Selborne. "It is very amusing," he says, "to see the cock bird on wing at that time, and to hear his piping and humming notes."¹

"When they are playing about on the wing they certainly make a loud piping with their mouths, but whether that bleating or humming is ventriloquous, or proceeds from the motion of their wings, I cannot say; but this I know, that when the noise happens, the bird is always descending, and his wings are violently agitated."²

This curious "humming," "bleating," or "drumming," as it is variously called, has engaged the attention of many naturalists since White's time, and few counties offer better opportunities for the study than Hampshire, at least in the South of England.

It is now generally agreed that the sound is produced by the wings, the outspread feathers of the tail probably contributing in some way to the production.

It is usually assumed that this performance belongs to the breeding season only. But this is a mistake. It may be heard throughout the summer months; indeed, we are informed that it has been heard in nearly every month of the year. Just as a warm, bright day in winter sets the song-birds carolling before their time, so also it may send the snipe drumming cheerfully round the horizon of its meadows, in anticipation of the spring.

There is, happily, no need to specify all the breeding

¹ Letter x. to Pennant. August, 1767.

² Letter xxxix. to Pennant. November, 1773.

stations of this bird. Though, doubtless, driven from many former haunts by drainage, it seems to have more than made up its numbers elsewhere, not only in such historic spots as Wolmer and the New Forest, but in the marshes and meadows of our larger river valleys, and on boggy moorlands and commons in other parts of the county. Bransbury Common, for instance, which was noted for its snipe in Hawker's day,¹ is still inhabited by a large colony all the year round, and there are other favoured spots in the neighbourhood of Odiham and Silchester.

Gilpin says of the snipe²:—"She is a frequent inhabitant of the wildest scenes. Any swamp or marshy spot will please her, and of these she finds abundance in various parts of the Forest."

This bird is not now known to nest in the Isle of Wight, though Bury records that it bred in Yarmouth marshes in the "forties." More, writing twenty years later, reckoned it as a winter visitor only.

The dark variety of this species, known as "Sabine's Snipe," has often occurred in the county.

The following are examples:—

One at Heron Court in 1836. (Wise, "New Forest.")

One at Picket Post, in the New Forest, January, 1859. (Wise.)

One shot by the Earl of Selborne at Wolmer Pond, July 31st, 1880. ("Zoologist." 1881.)

One at Christchurch, January 12th, 1881. (Hart's collection.)

One shot at Bishop's Waltham, October 29th, 1889. (Green, "Field.")

One at Leckford, January, 1894. (W. H. Turle.)

¹ "Diary." November 3rd, 1810.

² "Forest Scenery." 1834.

GENUS—*Limnocryptes*.**231. *Limnocryptes gallinula*. Jack Snipe.**

A winter visitor to all parts, arriving at the end of September or during October.

This bird is not abundant, but is usually found singly, or in parties of two or three, where there is some special attraction.

It was known to Gilbert White, who mentions it in his Journal, and includes it in the list of winter birds of passage contained in the first letter to Barrington.

Hawker discusses in his "Diary" (September 5th, 1802) the uncertainty attaching to the pursuit of these birds. "The first thirteen shots," he says, "that I had at these birds this year I killed without missing one; have since fired eight shots at one jack and missed them all."

Wise mentions a bird which lay so close that it allowed itself to be caught in a hat.¹

This species occasionally remains so late in the spring—Munn has seen it, for instance, on Bransbury Common, as late as May 5th, 1894—that it has been supposed to stay to breed; but there is no authentic record of its eggs having been found in the county and properly identified. A nest taken on Bransbury Common, on April 27th, 1886, with four eggs, was supposed to belong to this species.

¹ "New Forest."

GENUS—*Tringa*.**232. *Tringa alpina*. Dunlin.**

OXBIRD.

A very common winter visitor to all our coasts.

This bird so often remains until May, and so frequently dons its summer plumage before leaving us, that we should scarcely be surprised at discovering its nest on the moors of the New Forest.

Mr. O. V. Aplin, for example, the author of the "Birds of Oxfordshire," saw a black-breasted bird accompanied by four young ones in the first plumage in Brading Marshes on July 25th, 1887,¹ and naturally supposed that they were reared at no great distance.

Bury mentions two examples obtained in full summer plumage, one in Sandown Bay on May 9th, 1844, and the other at Bonchurch, nine days later, and More writes that it has been seen in the Island in every month of the year except June.

This bird seldom wanders inland, but there is a specimen in the Heron Court collection, which is one of nine killed at one shot on the River Stour by the second Earl of Malmesbury.

Mr. Chalkley assures us that it visits Alresford Pond every August, and Captain Reid has observed it at Fleet.

¹ "Zoologist." October, 1887.

233. *Tringa minuta*. Little Stint.

An autumn visitor to our coasts, never in large numbers, rarely seen inland.

Mr. Hart has several specimens, and others have been reported from Gosport by Mr. Walter Jeffery and from Portchester by Mr. Stares.

Bell includes it in his list of the birds of Alton, on the authority of J. Curtis.

It appears to be very rare in the Island, but two were recorded by H. Rogers in the "Zoologist" of 1865.

234. *Tringa temminckii*. Temminck's Stint.

An occasional visitor to our coasts in spring and autumn.

Mr. Hart's specimens are dated May 14th, 1879, September 16th, 1881, and August 6th, 1883.

An example was obtained by Mr. W. Bryan a few years ago in the New Forest.¹

H. Rogers recorded two specimens from the Isle of Wight in the "Zoologist" of 1865.

235. *Tringa subarquata*. Curlew Sandpiper.

A common visitor to the coast on the spring and autumn migrations.

¹ "The New Forest" by De Crespigny and Hutchinson. 1903.

More records it from the Island, and Mr. Hart has several specimens both in summer and winter plumage.

There is an example in Lord Malmesbury's collection, and Messrs. Pearce and Stares have observed it in the neighbourhood at Portsmouth.

236. *Tringa striata*. **Purple Sandpiper.**

A winter visitor to our coasts, but not in large numbers, and less common in the Isle of Wight.

Mr. Hart's specimens are dated October, 1860 ; November, 1882 ; and October, 1886.

More mentions that several have occurred on the rocky shores of the Undercliff, generally in late autumn, and Mr. Wadham, of Newport, has informed us of a specimen obtained in the Island in October, 1896.

237. *Tringa canutus*. **Knot.**

A winter visitor to all our coasts.

This bird is not uncommon on the shores of the mainland during autumn and winter, and often remains until May, after assuming the red plumage of summer. Indeed, Mr. Hart assures us that some remain as late as the beginning of June.

In the Island, according to More, it is obtained every year, principally in autumn.

Mr. Meade-Waldo relates ¹ that he has often seen small flocks on Hatchett Pond, near Beaulieu, in the New Forest, but it is of the rarest occurrence inland.

¹ "Victoria History of Hants."

GENUS—*Machetes*.**238. *Machetes pugnax*. Ruff.**

REEVE (FEMALE).

A winter visitor, rare inland.

There is no evidence to show that this bird has ever nested with us, and it is now principally known as an autumn and spring visitor on migration to our coasts, and only in small numbers.

Our oldest record is from Bury, who mentions two obtained by Butler in the Isle of Wight in winter, and a reeve shot at Newtown in August, 1844.

Dr. Cowper has seen it once near Luccombe, and Mr. Wadham, of Newport, reports a reeve procured in the Island on September 13th, 1889.

Mr. Hart has numerous specimens, including some very fine males, from the neighbourhood of Christchurch. There is a male bird in winter plumage from King's Pond in the Alton Museum, and others were seen at Fleet Pond in 1877 by Captain Reid.

Mr. Corbin reports an example from Ringwood in September, 1887; others have been recorded from Portchester and Hill Head by Messrs. Stares and Pearce, and two reeves were shot out of a flock of five at Hayling Island, on September 5th, 1896 (Templer, "Zoologist," October, 1896).

GENUS—*Calidris*.**239. *Calidris arenaria*. Sanderling.**

A common winter visitor to all our coasts, very rare inland.

This bird arrives in August and remains until late in May or even June.

Mr. Hart's specimens are dated May 27th, 1866, June 1st, 1867, January, 1868, and December, 1882.

More considered this species far from common in the Island, but Dr. Cowper writes¹ that it may not infrequently be seen along the foreshore, at times in small parties of its own species, at other times in company with ringed plovers and dunlins.

There is a specimen from Liphook in the Charterhouse Museum.²

Mr. Victor Willett has a specimen obtained at St. Catherine's Lighthouse, in the Isle of Wight, on May 30th, 1894.

GENUS—*Tringoides*.**240. *Tringoides hypoleucus*. Common Sandpiper.**

SUMMER SNIPE.

A summer visitor, arriving in April and departing in September, but rarely nesting in the county.

The bird is met with sparingly throughout our district, and principally at the periods of migration, but the only

¹ "Hants Court Guide."

² Bucknill's "Birds of Surrey."

two districts where it is certainly known to nest are in the New Forest and the Isle of Wight.

Gilbert White did not reckon this species among the regular summer visitors to Selborne, but he alludes to it in the following passage ¹—"It is, I find, in zoology, as in botany; all nature is so full, that that district produces the greatest variety which is the most examined. Several birds, which are said to belong to the north only, are, it seems, often in the south. I have discovered this summer three species of birds with us, which writers mention as only to be seen in the northern counties.

The first that was brought me (on the 14th of May) was the sandpiper: it was a cock bird, and haunted the banks of some ponds near the village; and, as it had a companion, doubtless intended to have bred near that water. Besides, the owner has told me since, that, on recollection, he has seen some of the same birds round his ponds in former summers."

In the MS. Journal, on July 28th, 1788, he mentions seeing "the stint, or summer snipe" at Oakhanger. The bird still occurs in the same neighbourhood, though not, perhaps, so commonly as on the other side of the county. Bell, for instance, mentions an example obtained at the mill-stream, in July, 1860.

In the Itchen Valley it is known as a regular visitor. Dr. Bowdler Sharpe writes ² that he has found it in May, in pairs, in full breeding-plumage, on the sides of the lake in Avington Park; "and the specimens which my friend, the late Sir Edward Shelley, allowed me to procure for the British Museum, are preserved in the national collection. . . . I found several pairs at Avington, where

¹ Letter xx. to Pennant. Selborne. October 3rd, 1768.

² "Lloyd's Natural History."

they frequented the shores of the lake for several days before passing northward."

In his edition of White's *Selborne*, the same writer remarks that he never saw them at *Avington* in the autumn, and believed they returned south another way.

On the reaches of the Upper Test, at *Overton*, *Laverstoke* and *Whitchurch*, the bird undoubtedly remains throughout the summer, but its nest has yet to be found. (Munn.)

In the *New Forest*, on the other hand, it has long been known to nest occasionally. *Wise* says that "a pair now and then remain to breed at *Whitten Pond*, near *Burley*, and also at *Ocknell*."¹

Mr. Hart has four eggs in his collection, as well as young in down, procured in July, 1893, and *Mr. Meade-Waldo* has seen an old pair with young ones on the river above *Lymington*.²

Munn has noticed it on the shores of *Hatchett Pond*, near *Bealieu*, on the spring migration, another observer having mistaken it on several occasions for the ringed plover.

As regards the *Isle of Wight*, *Bury* says that they appear at *Bonchurch* about the end of April, and no doubt breed, leaving again about the end of September. *More*, writing twenty years later, says that the only locality where it may possibly nest is in the neighbourhood of *Freshwater*, "where *Mr. Rogers* says that more than one pair are to be found during the breeding-season."

*Dr. Cowper*³ assures us that it rears its young every year at *Bembridge*. *Mr. Poole* confirms its remaining throughout the summer in small numbers.

¹ "*New Forest*." ² "*Victoria History of Hants*."

³ "*Hants Court Guide*."

This is a bird which returns with great regularity to its favourite haunts year after year, and betrays a surprising tameness or, it may be, fatigue on its arrival in the spring.

GENUS—*Helodromas*.

241. *Helodromas ochropus*. Green Sandpiper.

A summer visitor, most commonly seen on migration, and not known to nest in the county.

This bird is very difficult to classify. It has been seen more than once in winter, and has some claim to be considered as a resident.

Gilbert White's acquaintance with this species has only recently been made public.

In his Journal of August 10th, 1769, he writes:—"Mr. Sheffield, of Worcester College, went into Wolmer Forest and procured me a green sandpiper, *Tringa Aldrov.*, *Tringa ochropus*, Linn.:. They were in pairs and had been seen about by many people on the streams and banks of the ponds."

In writing to Pennant in the following month he remarks on the pleasure of having Mr. Sheffield and another naturalist with him; "no bird," he says, "came before them unascertained. One day we shot a *Tringa ochropus*, which is a very rare bird in these parts."

This passage was omitted when the letter was published, but is restored in Dr. Bowdler Sharpe's edition.

Again in his Journal of October 6th, 1781, he notes a "*Tringa ochropus* or white-rumped sandpiper" at Wolmer Pond.

Hawker's first specimen at Longparish is dated within

a very few years after White's death, namely, August 26th, 1806.

In more modern times it has been met with in almost every month of the year, and we think it may possibly nest within our limits, but the fact of its occupying old nests of other birds at some distance from the ground makes the discovery a difficult one.

Bury wrote that a pair bred regularly in the marshes near Yarmouth, "as recorded by Mr. Yarrell," but the last edition of that standard work makes no mention of the report.

Bury also records specimens obtained in the Island on October 26th, 1843, and May 1st and December 12th, 1844. This last is a remarkable date, and indeed the chief interest attaching to the following records belongs to the season at which these eccentric birds were seen.

The specimen in the Alton Museum was obtained at the mill-stream at Selborne on August 27th, 1859, and presented by Professor Bell. (Bell's edition of White says 1858.) Colonel Irby met with one at Wolmer on July 26th, 1884, and one of our few occurrences in winter is that of the bird procured at Ovington on January 19th, 1892, and now in the Winchester College collection.

Munn has seen the bird frequently throughout the summer on the Test, at Hurstbourne, Longparish and Bransbury, and near Bishopstoke on the Itchen; and he remembers once flushing a pair from a pollard oak in the water-meadows at Freefolk, when a pair of barn owls also flew out from the same tree; this was in the spring.

In the New Forest district also this species is well known. Wise says that it was common in his time between Lymington and Calshot. In June, 1862, he saw several

pairs near Leap, and he quotes Mr. Rake as reporting a pair from Hale, on the northern border of the Forest, in April, 1858.

Mr. Hart's specimens are dated August, September and October; he mentions Stanpit Marsh as a favourite resort in summer, but has met with it at most seasons of the year. Mr. Corbin mentions May, June and July.

Lastly, to return to the Island, More considers the autumn the most usual time of its occurrence, but adds that a few stray birds have been known to spend the winter there.

We give the following extract from Yarrell¹ quoting from the Proc. Zool. Society for 1863, by way of information as to the unusual places chosen by this bird in which to lay its eggs:—"It appears that the first published intimation of the selection of trees as breeding places was given in 'Naumannia' for 1851 and 1852; and soon afterwards Herr Wiese narrated in the 'Journal für Ornithologie,' 1855, p. 514, how, having been told of this by an old sportsman, he took a clutch of four eggs himself from a simple bed of moss high up in the fork of a pine-tree in the district of Coslin, Pomerania, where he afterwards found others. Subsequently, Forester Hinz communicated ('Journal für Ornithologie,' 1862, p. 460) ample details respecting the nidification of this species as observed by him in Pomerania since the year 1818. The eggs, which have been found as early as the 16th of April, were frequently placed on old nests of the song-thrush, jay, blackbird, missel-thrush, wood pigeon; once on that of the red-backed shrike; often in squirrels' dreys; sometimes on the ground; on the moss on old stumps with only

¹ "History of British Birds." Fourth Edition. Vol. iii., p. 460.

a few leaves under the eggs ; in broken-down trees where starlings and pied flycatchers had previously nested ; on the branches of an old pine tree where the spines were heaped together ; at elevations varying from five to thirty-five feet ; but always in proximity to ponds."

GENUS—*Totanus*.

242. *Totanus glareola*. Wood-Sandpiper.

A rare occasional visitor, usually during the autumn migration.

In the Hart collection at Christchurch are specimens procured in the district in June, 1868 ; on August 19th, 1873 ; and on August 6th, 1883.

Mr. Corbin has recorded it from the New Forest, and Mr. Pearce from Langston Harbour.

243. *Totanus calidris*. Redshank.

A resident and increasing species.

The bird was apparently unknown to White, nor has Hawker anything of interest to say about it.

Wise appears to have been the first to discover it as a breeding species in the New Forest. "This bird," he says, "is certainly a resident throughout the year. I have repeatedly put it up during the autumn in some of the swamps near Stoney Cross, more especially in the evening, when it will hover round and round, just keeping overhead, not unlike a peewit. Several nests are yearly taken. Last



REDSHANK ON NEST.

From a Photograph by Mr. Smith Whiting.



REDSHANK.

From a Photograph by Mr. Smith Whiting.

To face p. 316.

year Mr. Farren found one near Burley, April 4th, with a single egg, and another, May 3rd, containing four, at Bishop's-ditch." ¹

At the present time it is one of the most characteristic birds of the Forest, nesting commonly in marshy meadows and boggy places, especially near the sea; but as a breeding species it is confined to the New Forest district, and the southern part of the county.

We take the following admirable description of its habits during the nesting-season, as observed on Beaulieu Heath, from Mr. W. H. Hudson's "Hampshire Days":—

"He rises a long way ahead, and wheeling about, comes towards me—he and she—and by-and-by a second pair, and perhaps a third; they come with measured pulsation of the long, sharp, white-banded wings; and the first-comer sweeps by and returns again to meet the others, clamouring all the while, calling on them to join in the outcry, until the whole air seems full of their trouble. To and fro he flies, to this side and that; and finally, he sweeps down to alight on the topmost spray of some small tree or tall bush—not a furze but a willow; and as it is an insecure stand for a bird of his long, thin wading legs, he stands lightly, balancing himself with his wings; beautiful in his white and pale-grey plumage, and his slender form, on that airy perch of the willow in its grey-green leaves and snow-white catkins; and balanced there, he still continues his sorrowful anxious cries—ever crying for me to go—to go away and leave him in peace. I leave him reluctantly, and have my reward, for no sooner does he see me going than his anxious cries change to that beautiful wild pipe, unrivalled, except by the curlew, among shore birds."

¹ "New Forest. 1862.

It was an unfortunate statement of the late Mr. A. G. More, in the "Ibis" of 1865, shortly after the publication of Wise's book, that this bird was "rapidly decreasing in the south." It may have been true of Surrey and Kent, but certainly not of Hampshire.

Mr. Stares informs us that it nests in two or three localities in the south-east corner of the county ; he found young birds in the down in some marshes near Fareham, on June 26th, 1893,¹ and eggs in the same neighbourhood on April 24th, 1897.²

It is common on all our coasts in the winter, and has been met with at Alton (Curtis), Liphook,³ and Wolmer, (Irby), in the latter case in the month of August.

In the Isle of Wight, Bury considered it only a winter visitor, and More a "bird of double passage," but since their time it has certainly become resident in the Island.

Dr. Cowper writes that several pairs nest in old Brading Harbour, but that probably it did not breed in the Island until the draining of the harbour, and Mr. Poole, of Shanklin, gives us information to the same effect. Mr. Victor Willett has obtained a specimen from St. Catherine's Lighthouse, on August 20th, 1892.

244. *Totanus fuscus*. Spotted Redshank.

An occasional visitor to the coasts of the mainland, on the spring and autumn migration, rarely occurring inland.

Hawker⁴ shot one at Longparish on September 7th, 1815: "This morning," he says, "an hour or two before I

¹ "Zoologist." August, 1894.

² Smith, "Zoologist." March, 1898.

³ "Birds of Surrey."

⁴ "Diary."

was prepared to start, I was called to go down to the river for two 'curious birds.' I loaded my double gun, and crawled under cover of a heap of stones near enough to bring down one sitting and the other flying with the second barrel. They proved to be a godwit and a spotted redshank, birds which I had often killed on the coast, but never before heard of in this part of the country."

Bell records another in his edition of White's Selborne:¹ "A beautiful specimen . . . was killed at Oakhanger, and brought to me on August 30th, 1851. It was in an interesting state of plumage—the breast and whole under-part sprinkled with a mixture of grey and white, the back blackish, spotted." This bird is still in the Alton Museum.

Mr. Hart's specimens were procured in the neighbourhood of Christchurch, and are dated June 1st, 1871; September 6th, 1875; September 7th, 1877; December, 1880; and October 17th, 1888.

This bird does not appear to have been observed in the Island.

245. *Totanus canescens*. Greenshank.

A spring and autumn visitor.

This bird is found upon our coasts during migration, either singly or in small numbers, and more rarely inland.

Our oldest records belong to the Isle of Wight. Bury mentions one shot on a pond at Winston, in the parish of Godshill, in 1841, and another killed at Newton, in August, 1844. He met with it every autumn on the mud-flats. Mr. Willett has a specimen dated October 26th, 1891, from the island.

¹ Vol. I., p. 59.

The Alton Museum contains a specimen procured at Oakhanger in 1861, and one from Wolmer, presented in 1862.

Mr. Hart's examples from Christchurch are dated January, 1868; October, 1881; and October, 1884.

Captain Reid found this bird with other waders at Fleet Pond in 1877,¹ and Mr. Stares has met with several in the neighbourhood of Portsmouth Harbour, one of which is in the Hartley Museum at Southampton.

GENUS—*Macrorhamphus*.

246. *Macrorhamphus griseus*. Red-breasted Snipe.

A very rare accidental visitor.

Mr. Hart discovered two skins of this bird among some "Sabine's Snipes" in his collection, and he informs us that one was killed on the disused salt-pans at Mudeford by J. Cull, in September, 1872.

The other, which is not so dark in plumage, is dated October, 1902.

This species has not been included in any previous list of Hampshire birds.

It is a native of North America, migrating in winter as far south as Brazil.

¹ "Zoologist." 1877.

GENUS—*Limosa*.

247. *Limosa lapponica*. Bar-tailed Godwit.

A regular spring and autumn visitor to all our coasts, very rarely seen inland.

Hawker met with a single specimen at Longparish on September 7th, 1815, as recorded above, under "spotted redshank." On May 16th, 1842, he found the whole shore near Keyhaven "lined with godwits, all working to the eastward," and on the following day he brought home twenty-one, some in summer and others in winter plumage. On the next day again he went about seven miles to the eastward, and "fell in with the rearguard of their army," of which he killed eighteen. His total bag was eighty-seven.

Bury mentions one brought to him on May 8th, 1841, which had been struck down by a peregrine at Bonchurch, and several others obtained in the Island at the same season of the year.

Mr. V. Willett has obtained specimens from St. Catherine's Lighthouse in February, 1894.

Bell mentions a specimen obtained at Faringdon, near Alton, on the authority of J. Curtis.

248. *Limosa ægocephala*. Black-tailed Godwit.

An occasional visitor to our coast on the spring and autumn migration.

Mr. Hart says that this bird occurs more often in

spring than in autumn, but is not nearly as plentiful as the last species.

Wise mentions one killed by a Forest keeper at Ocknell Pond about the year 1840, in which year a pair were obtained at Liphook,¹ but they are very rare inland.

This species is not included in the Island lists.

GENUS—*Numenius*.

249. *Numenius phaeopus*. **Whimbrel.**

MAY-BIRD. TITREL.

A regular spring and autumn visitor to all our coasts, more abundant at the former season.

Munn saw a flock at Keyhaven Marshes on June 30th, 1894, and it is probable that a few immature birds remain throughout the summer.

Hawker says that they appear in small flocks about April and May, and are much easier of access than curlews.²

Wise remarks that they have been met with in the depth of winter.³

Mr. H. Durnford saw a pair on Bransbury Common at the end of April, 1873;⁴ and Mr. Sutton Davies records one seen at Worthy.⁵

An example has also occurred at Whitchurch.

¹ Bucknill's "Birds of Surrey."

² "Instructions to Young Sportsmen."

³ "New Forest."

⁴ "Zoologist." 1873.

⁵ List of the Birds of Winchester.

250. *Numenius arquata*. Curlew.

A very local resident; largely reinforced in winter, when it is found commonly on all our coasts, and more rarely inland.

Gilbert White wrote in his Journal on January 30th, 1784—"A long-billed curlew has just been shot near the Priory. We see them now and then in very long frosts."

The bird is best known, of course, as a winter visitor to the coast, and it was not until the publication of the third volume of the Fourth Edition of Yarrell, in 1885, that it was known to nest in Hampshire. The expression used there is that—"a few pairs may be scattered through Wilts and Hants." When Kelsall published his list in 1890, he had the authority both of the Hon. Gerald Lascelles and of Mr. Hart for the fact that a pair or two occasionally nested on the wildest heaths of the New Forest, and since that time various observers have added their testimony.

Mr. Hart has young birds in his collection from the district, and Mr. Meade-Waldo thinks the species should be reckoned as a resident.

Besides the few pairs of nesting-birds, many non-breeding spend the summer on our coasts.

The Winchester College collection contains a specimen obtained near Worthy in 1876, and Captain Reid met with others at Fleet Pond in the following year.

Bell met with the bird at Selborne some time before 1877.

One was killed out of a large flock at Basingstoke on August 5th, 1886.

Two were shot out of a flock of seven at King's Somborne in January, 1892,¹ and others appeared at Newton Stacey about the same time.

Mr. Willett has obtained it from St. Catherine's Lighthouse on March 29th, 1892.

Two were shot at Alresford on January 12th, 1893,² and it has also been observed at Whitchurch.

ORDER—GAVIÆ.

FAMILY—*Laridæ*.

SUB-FAMILY—*Sterninæ*.

GENUS—*Sterna*.

251. *Sterna macrura*. Arctic Tern.

A spring and autumn visitor to all our coasts.

Mr. Hart has obtained it at Christchurch, and has young birds in down, which he believes belong to this species, taken there.

Mr. Pearce has met with it on our south-east coast.

In the Isle of Wight, More says that it is usually seen in the autumn, and one was picked up dead at Bembridge in October, 1857.

Mr. Willett has a specimen obtained at St. Catherine's Lighthouse on September 24th, 1892.

¹ "Zoologist." January, 1893. ² "Zoologist." August, 1894.



COMMON TERN.

From a Photograph by Mr. Smith Whiting.



252. *Sterna fluviatilis*. Common Tern.

SEA-SWALLOW.

A spring and autumn visitor to all our coasts, much commoner than the last, and frequently occurring inland.

It rarely nests in the county, but more commonly in those adjoining, and hence may often be seen on our coasts during the summer. Mr. Hart informs us that in 1902 he saw eggs of this species that were laid in the neighbourhood of Christchurch.

There is a specimen in the Alton Museum, obtained at King's Pond, on October 10th, 1857, and another from Hartley.

Captain Reid met with the species at Fleet Pond in 1877, and specimens have been recorded from Wolmer and Itchen Stoke. An example has also been obtained at Whitchurch.

In the Isle of Wight, according to More, it is usually seen in the autumn. In October, 1858, for instance, a large flock remained at Spithead for some days. Mr. Poole, also, considers the autumn its usual season, but Dr. Cowper has noted it as a summer visitor.

It does not, however, breed in the Island.

253. *Sterna minuta*. Little Tern.

A spring and autumn visitor to our coasts, rarely occurring inland.

Since this bird now nests within a short distance of our eastern border, as well as in the adjoining county

of Dorset, its occasional occurrence within our limits during the summer months may be reasonably expected ; and Mr. Hart says he saw it nesting on the mainland, near Christchurch, in 1902.

Bell mentions an occurrence at Alton, on the authority of Mr. Curtis, and Mr. Chalkley has met with the bird near Winchester.

As regards the Isle of Wight, More mentions a party of these birds being seen early in May off Shingle Point, at Bembridge, and a single specimen obtained at Freshwater in the spring of 1855.

254. *Sterna caspia*. Caspian Tern.

A rare accidental visitor.

In the Hart collection at Christchurch is a specimen which was shot by the Hon. Grantley F. Berkeley at Highcliff, in the early autumn of 1852, which is mentioned in Yarrell, and recorded in the "Zoologist" for 1869.

255. *Sterna anglica*. Gull-billed Tern.

A rare accidental visitor.

A fine adult specimen was obtained near Christchurch on May 14th, 1872, purchased by Baron A. von Hugel, and presented by him to the British Museum.¹

¹ Yarrell, Vol. III., p. 532. (4th Edition).

256. *Sterna cantiaea*. Sandwich Tern.

An occasional visitor to the coast, on spring and autumn migration.

Our earliest records relate to the Isle of Wight, where one was shot near No-man buoy on April 13th, 1858, and another off Bembridge in September, 1859. (More.)

There is a specimen without date in the Earl of Malmesbury's collection, and Mr. Hart possesses a pair obtained near Christchurch on May 14th, 1880.

Hadfield records an example obtained at Freshwater in the autumn of 1888.¹

GENUS—*Hydrochelidon*.

257. *Hydrochelidon hybrida*. Whiskered Tern.

A rare accidental visitor.

In the Hart collection at Christchurch is a specimen shot in that neighbourhood in June, 1875.

**258. *Hydrochelidon leucoptera*. White-winged
Black Tern.**

A rare occasional visitor.

Mr. Hart possesses specimens procured on May 2nd and 3rd, 1883, and May 18th, 1886, and has remarked on their always appearing on a certain reach of the Avon at Christchurch.

¹ "Zoologist." January, 1889.

Captain Savile Reid informed Kelsall that he saw three at Wolmer Pond in April, 1883.

The Rev. A. P. Morres saw some of these birds passing down the Avon on April 30th, 1892, "on migration to Christchurch, where H——, the naturalist, had been looking out for them all that week." ¹

Mr. Stares also saw three on April 27th, 1897, on a piece of water near Portchester:—"They only remained there one day. They were very elegant birds, flying about over the reed-beds and open water, hawking after insects. Sometimes they would come and settle on some old posts that were standing in the water." ²

259. *Hydrochelidon nigra*. **Black Tern.**

A spring and autumn visitor, chiefly to the coast.

Our oldest specimen is an immature bird in the Charterhouse Museum, which was obtained at Liphook, in 1840.

An example from Hartley was presented to the Alton Museum in 1857.

Mr. Hart's specimens from the neighbourhood of Christchurch are dated May 15th, 1866; August 29th, 1873; May 12th, 1881; September, 1883; and August, 1884.

Mr. Pearce informed Kelsall of an immature bird obtained in Portsmouth Harbour in September, 1889.

In the Isle of Wight, Bury mentions one procured in the summer of 1843, and More an adult and two young, which appeared in Brading Harbour in September, 1858.

Two adult specimens in breeding plumage were shot at

¹ "Wild Life in Hampshire Highlands," by G. A. B. Dewar, p. 21.

² "Zoologist." March, 1898.

Longparish, many years ago, by Mr. I. Potticary, and are in the possession of Mrs. Faithfull, of that place.

GENUS—*Rissa*.

260. *Rissa tridactyla*. Kittiwake.

A very scarce resident in the Isle of Wight, receiving large additions to its numbers in winter, principally in the neighbourhood of our coasts.

Not commonly seen inland.

We are enabled to class this bird as a resident, on the authority of Mr. G. T. Woods, of Sandown, who informs us that a few pairs certainly still nest on the Culver Cliffs. In the year 1903, he obtained an egg, which had rolled from a nest on to a grassy slope below.

In the "Letters of Rusticus" (1849), it is mentioned that the bird was seen at Freshwater in May.

Bury in Adams' "Isle of Wight," published in 1858, says that it no longer nests at Freshwater; and More, writing shortly afterwards, reckons it as a winter visitor.

Hadfield, however, in the "Zoologist," in 1866, writes that in the April of that year they were evidently paired on the Culver Cliffs, though no nests were found, and none of the birds were seen in June.

Dr. Cowper says it certainly used to nest at Freshwater, since the collection of the late Rev. W. D. Fox contained eggs taken there.

The specimen in the Winchester College collection was obtained at the Sewage Farm in 1894, and Bell records an example from Alton.

GENUS—*Larus*.**261. *Larus glaucus*. Glaucous Gull.**

An occasional winter visitor to the coast.

The Hart collection contains a specimen procured near Christchurch in February, 1877.

Bury¹ relates that he saw the species twice off the Isle of Wight in the winter of 1844-5, and that Butler had obtained it occasionally.

A specimen in the Museum of Haslar Hospital was obtained in the neighbourhood of Portsmouth.

Hadfield has recorded a specimen obtained at Freshwater in the autumn of 1888.²

262. *Larus leucopterus*. Iceland Gull.

An occasional winter visitor to the coast, less common than the last.

Mr. Sutton Davies reports an example in the Charterhouse Museum, dated Portsmouth, 1860.

The specimen in the Hart collection was obtained near Christchurch in December, 1874.

Another was shot off Freshwater in February, 1883, by a son of Mr. Rogers, of that place.³

¹ "Zoologist." 1845.

² "Zoologist." January, 1889.

³ Hadfield in the "Zoologist." January, 1884.

263. *Larus argentatus*. Herring-Gull.

Resident, nesting only in the Isle of Wight.

This bird breeds plentifully on the Culver, Freshwater and Needles Cliffs, and frequently comes inland at all seasons of the year, sometimes in considerable numbers. It reaches even the northern boundaries of the county in summer, and is by far the most common gull throughout the year in Hampshire.

This is, no doubt, the bird referred to by White in his Journal of December 19th, 1775, when he notes:—"Ten or twelve large gulls sailing high in the air over Combe-wood Pond."

It is curious that Warner does not mention this species among the birds in his history of the Island (1795), but Albin describes the manner of taking their eggs in his "Vectiana," about twenty years later.

Hawker also describes the same process in his "Diary" of May 23rd, 1837, when he brought home four young, and the "Letters of Rusticus" also give a full and lively account of the cliffs in the nesting season.

When Kelsall lived at East Boldre, in the New Forest, he observed that the herring-gulls used to come to Hatchett Pond every day during the summer months, beginning their visits about the middle of March.

Munn has noticed that wild birds are frequently attracted by those which he keeps in captivity, and will settle with them in the water, and on the banks of the stream where they are kept.

Bury mentions an individual which lived no less than thirty-six years in captivity.¹

¹ Adams' "History of the Island."

264. *Larus fuscus*. Lesser Black-backed Gull.

A winter visitor to all our coasts, a few pairs remaining to nest.

Mr. Hart reports that immature birds are to be seen the year round, and adults in winter and spring.

It will be seen from the following notes that a pair or two have continued to nest among the herring-gulls at Freshwater, until a very recent date, and it is to be hoped that the protection now afforded to the cliff birds may yet restore this one to the number of our resident species.

Bury says that it was very abundant in the Island during the winter months in his time, even more so than the herring-gull, but that one or two pairs only remained to nest.

But this remark about its abundance in winter is not true at the present day.

More, writing in 1860, considers that it "cannot be reckoned among the residents, since it does not breed regularly at the Freshwater Cliffs. One or two pairs have been known to nest there in 1857 and 1858, but this is said to be a very unusual occurrence."

But Hadfield was able to report nests from time to time, for a long period after this.

Thus in the "Zoologist" of 1866 he describes two young birds taken from the nest, in the spring of the year before. In June, 1866, he reports a pair still nesting in the Culver Cliffs, and in July, 1867, "one pair breeding this year on the Freshwater Cliffs, and one pair on the Culvers."

Again in January, 1884, he records the nesting of a pair at Freshwater during the previous year.

In 1896, Munn found a pair nesting on the Freshwater Cliffs, and Dr. Cowper writes about the same time that "it is certainly breeding at the Culver Cliff."¹

This bird is occasionally seen inland, but not so often as the herring, black-headed, and common gulls.

265. *Larus canus*. Common Gull.

A common winter visitor.

This bird is not restricted to the neighbourhood of the coast, but visits the valleys of the Itchen, Test and Avon in company with the black-headed gull.

The name of "common gull" is frequently given to other species by those who are not acquainted with its distinctive features.

266. *Larus marinus*. Greater Black-backed Gull.

SADDLE-BACK GULL.

A winter visitor, but not very common.

This fine bird usually occurs upon the coast, either singly or in small parties, and is rarely seen inland.

It is pleasant to be able to associate this species with the name of Gilbert White, in the following extract from his Journal, which has never before been published:—

"April 11, 1772. The great black-and-white gull . . . was shot lately near Chawton . . . *Larus marinus*. Linn."

¹ "Hants Court Guide."

Hawker's "Diary" tells us that on December 28th, 1847, he "had the luck (at Keyhaven) to get the very bird I had long tried, even with the great gun, a huge saddle-back gull, that was blown by the raging tempest into the marsh close by; he measured 5 feet 3 inches, from tip to tip of wings. I once killed five at a shot of these huge monsters when a youth—but had never killed one since that olden time."

The author of the "Letters of Rusticus" (1849), in describing his visit to the Freshwater Cliffs, saw "the great burgomasters, far, far above the summit, wheeling round and round, like eagles, and uttering continually their sonorous and piercing call." But we think, with More, that he must have been mistaken in the species.

Dr. Cowper considers it very uncommon in the Island, but he noticed it off Shanklin in the hard winter of 1894-5.

The specimen in the Winchester College Museum was obtained at Milford about the year 1899, and an immature example in the Alton Museum was captured at East Worldham in February, 1902.

Mr. W. H. Turle has shot an adult bird at Newton Stacey in the winter.

267. *Larus ridibundus*. Black-headed Gull.

PEEWIT GULL.

A resident, and common in certain districts, but now only nesting in one small colony within our borders.

Pennant states¹ that "Whitelock in his annals mentions a piece of ground near Portsmouth which produced to the

¹ "British Zoology," Vol. II., p. 190.



BLACK-HEADED GULL.

From a Photograph by Mr. Smith Whiting.

owner forty pounds a year by the sale of pewits, or this species of gull." This probably refers to a colony which formerly existed on Pewit Island (locally called "Pewty Island") in Portsmouth Harbour. Mr. Harting thinks that Pennant refers to Whitelock's "Memorials of English Affairs," and the colony would, therefore, have been in existence about Charles I.'s time.

The following passages are in Gilbert White's Journal, March 13th, 1771 :—"Wild fowls on Wolmer Pond. Some large white fowls also. Qu. what? They had black heads."

In a footnote :—"Upon examination it seems probable that the gulls which I saw were the pewit gulls or black-caps, *Larus ridibundus*. They haunt, it seems, inland pools, and sometimes breed on them. See Brit. Zoology."

On December, 1771 : "One pewit gull at Wolmer."

When White visited his brother Henry at Fyfield he used to notice gulls in the Itchen valley, which were probably the same species in their winter plumage.

Thus on November 15th, 1783, on his return from Fyfield, he writes :—"Sea-gulls abound on the Alresford streams ; they frequent those waters for many months in the year." And on December 2nd, 1786 :—"Several white gulls, as usual, in the stream beyond Alresford."

It is evident that these gulls did not nest at Wolmer in White's time, or he would have discovered the fact.

At the present time the bird is most abundant on our Dorsetshire borders, in which county the neighbourhood of Poole has been long known as a favoured nesting place, and it is somewhat remarkable that no colony was known on our side of the boundary until about the year 1904, when a small settlement was discovered by Mr. J. Hamilton Leigh in a bog close to the Avon, between Matchams and

the village of Hurn. Mr. Leigh thinks that there were a few nests here in 1903, as the birds were about all the summer.

No previous list of Hampshire birds has included this bird as a *nesting* species.

Large numbers come inland in winter, and many visit the estuaries, where, it must be admitted, they take their toll of the young fish.

Others feed in the freshly-ploughed fields, and others again visit the sewage-farm near Winchester, and follow up the valley of the Itchen, or spread northwards in large flocks as far as Micheldever and Whitchurch. Mr. Chalkley, the Winchester naturalist, is of opinion that by far the larger number of the gulls which frequent the Itchen valley in winter belong to this species, though common gulls and kittiwakes are often mingled with them.

Munn also considers that the same proportion holds good in the valley of the Test, where, however, they are never by any means so numerous as in the Itchen valley.

The black, or rather brown, hood is assumed in March and April.

A specimen was killed on November 1st, 1894, by flying against Freefolk Manor farm-house.

268. *Larus minutus*. Little Gull.

A rare occasional visitor in winter.

Wise records,¹ on the authority of Rake, that a pair were killed at Breamore in November, 1855.

The late William Jeffrey informed us that two were

¹ "New Forest."

shot at Emsworth in December, 1868, one of which, an adult, is in the Chichester Museum; and Mr. Pearce has recorded a specimen obtained in Langstone Harbour in 1875. Another was shot near Bournemouth on January 1st, 1889, by Mr. A. P. Frogatt, who recorded the fact in the "Field."

Mr. Hart's specimens from the neighbourhood of Christchurch are dated January 1st, 1872; December 4th, 1881; December, 1888; and January, 1894.

An immature example in the Winchester College Museum was obtained on Southampton Water on the 26th January, 1894.

Mr. Willett records a splendid adult specimen, showing the pink breast, which killed itself against St. Catherine's Lighthouse in a fog on April 23rd, 1894, and in the following winter Dr. Cowper¹ mentions one seen for many days in succession feeding off Shanklin Pier with a large flock of other gulls.

Among other occurrences of this species, of which the exact date is lost, are—one shot at Freshwater, many years ago, and included in Bond's collection; and one at Brown-down, near Gosport, about the year 1883. (Stares.)

GENUS—*Xema*.

269. *Xema sabinii*. Sabine's Gull.

A very rare occasional visitor.

Mr. R. E. Coles, of Ashley Arnewood, New Milton, has an adult specimen, which he shot among some phalaropes at Sturt Pond, near Milford, on October 21st, 1891.

¹ "Hants Court Guide."

This bird was shown to Mr. Howard Saunders, who wrote in the "Field," shortly afterwards: — "It is a thoroughly adult bird; in fact, among a somewhat large series in my collection, there is only one specimen which shows a trifle less black on the outer web of the sixth primary. The hood, characteristic of summer plumage, has now given place to irregular dusky black markings on the nape, while, as Mr. Coles observes, the primaries are abraded, especially their tips. . . .

"Reverting to the occurrences of adults in the British islands, I may mention that only two examples are known to me. . . .

"Immature birds are of not infrequent — though irregular—occurrence; but Mr. Coles may be congratulated on the acquisition of a third adult British specimen."

Another adult specimen was found dead in a field near Bournemouth on the 13th of the same month, and came into the possession of Mr. F. Coburn, of Birmingham, who sent the following particulars to the "Zoologist" in January, 1892:—

"The plumage on the whole of the under parts was beautifully suffused with salmon-pink; which was observable for several days after the bird had been skinned and mounted. . . . The tail is not so acutely forked as in Yarrell's figure, while the sharp angle to the lower mandible was not at all observable in the fresh bird, but is beginning to appear as the bill dries."

Mr. Hart has a beautifully marked immature example obtained near Christchurch on September 26th, 1896.

Another specimen in the first year's plumage was shot at Christchurch, in November, 1903, by Mr. E. A. Dobrée.¹

¹ Bull. Brit. Orn. Club, No. CV., March 16th, 1904.

This bird is a native of the Arctic regions of North-East Asia and North America.

It was not included in Kelsall's list.

SUB-FAMILY—*Stercorariinæ*.

GENUS—*Stercorarius*.

270. *Stercorarius catarrhactes*. Common Skua.

A rare occasional visitor to the coast in winter.

In the Hart collection are specimens procured near Christchurch in September, 1871, and October, 1879.

More recorded an example obtained at Freshwater about the year 1860, on the authority of the late Frederick Bond.

In March, 1904, a gamekeeper picked up a specimen under a hedge at Lainston, near Sparsholt, which was forwarded by Mr. Chalkley to the Editor of the "Field" for identification. Having swallowed a baited hook, it appeared to have been starved to death, and was too far gone to be preserved.

271. *Stercorarius pomatorhinus*. Pomatorhine Skua.

An occasional visitor to the coast in autumn and winter.

Our oldest record relates to the Isle of Wight, where a specimen was obtained by Butler during the winter of 1844. It was identified and recorded by Bury.

An example in the Charterhouse Museum is dated Portsmouth, 1868.

Mr. Hart's specimens were obtained near Christchurch, in October, 1879, and September, 1887.

**272. *Stercorarius crepidatus*. Richardson's
Skua.**

An occasional visitor to our coasts during autumn and winter. Very rarely seen inland.

Bury wrote that this bird made its appearance on the Solent "sufficiently often to have attracted the attention of the fishermen and others, who have given the bird a name not to be transcribed, derived from its habit of pursuing the gulls, and compelling them to disgorge the contents of their craw."

More mentions that he saw one in pursuit of some black-headed gulls in September, 1856; and Mr. A. V. Willett also records its occurrence off the Island.

Mr. Hart's specimens are dated from the neighbourhood of Christchurch, November, 1873; December, 1876; and October, 1879.

The example in the Winchester College Museum was obtained at Crawley, in October, 1879.

One was shot on Southampton Water, in November, 1893.

Kelsall has seen this bird once on the Solent, and was informed by Mr. Alexander Paris that he saw one being mobbed by jackdaws, off Barton Cliff, during the winter of 1904-5.

273. *Stercorarius parasiticus*. Buffon's Skua.

An occasional visitor to the coast on migration, usually in the autumn.

Mr. Hart has specimens obtained near Christchurch, on September 25th, 1889; and in October, 1891.

During the autumn of 1891, there was a large visitation to this county, especially to our south-western coast, where it was observed, curiously enough, that most of the birds were adult. Two or three were caught alive, and one was sent to the gardens of the Zoological Society, being the first of its kind ever seen there.¹

A young bird obtained at Crawley about the same time was identified by Dr. P. L. Sclater.

This species is a native of the Arctic regions of both hemispheres.

ORDER—TUBINARES.**FAMILY—*Procellariide*.****GENUS—*Procellaria*.****274. *Procellaria pelagica*. Storm-Petrel.**

An occasional visitor to all our coasts.

On the rare occasions when it has occurred inland, it has been driven by strong gales.

In the Hart collection are specimens obtained near Christchurch, in November, 1870, 1871 and 1883.

¹ "Ibis." January, 1892.

An example was found near Stockbridge, about the year 1884. (J. H. Willmore.)

Mr. Poole, of Shanklin, informs us that a specimen has been procured at St. Lawrence, in the Isle of Wight, and that others have been killed at the lighthouses.

Mr. Willett records one from St. Catherine's Lighthouse, in a fog, on April 23rd, 1894—on the same date as specimens of Leach's Petrel and the Little Gull were obtained.

275. *Procellaria leucorrhoa*. Leach's Petrel.

FORK-TAILED PETREL.

A rare occasional visitor, generally during stormy weather.

Our earliest record relates to the Isle of Wight, a specimen having been picked up at Freshwater in 1857. (More.)

Wise¹ records one, on the authority of Rake, which was picked up dead near Fordingbridge, in November, 1859.

Bell mentions a specimen obtained many years ago at Alton.

Mr. Hart says that they were particularly abundant at Christchurch in November, 1881.

Mr. Corbin has recorded several from the neighbourhood of Ringwood in December, 1882, and one in December, 1885.²

There is an example in the Earl of Malmesbury's collection at Heron Court.

Mr. Willett has a record of one from St. Catherine's Lighthouse, on April 23rd, 1894, in a fog.

¹ "New Forest," ² "Zoologist." May, 1886.

GENUS—*Oceanites*.**276.** *Oceanites oceanicus*. **Wilson's Petrel.**

A rare accidental visitor.

Only two specimens are known to have occurred in the county, both in the neighbourhood of Freshwater, in the Isle of Wight.

One was picked up on the shore by Colonel Delmé Radcliffe, in November, 1863, and is recorded by Yarrell.

The other was found dead in the same locality in the autumn of 1888, after a severe storm, and was recorded by Mr. J. H. Gurney in the "Zoologist" of April, 1889. It is now in the collection of Dr. Hollis, of Freshwater. This specimen was erroneously reported as Bulwer's Petrel in the same periodical during the preceding January.

GENUS—*Puffinus*.**277.** *Puffinus anglorum*. **Manx Shearwater.**

An occasional visitor to the coast, very rarely blown inland.

This was one of the last of the strange birds brought to Gilbert White. He writes in his Journal on September 19th, 1790:—"Lord Stawell sent me a bird taken at Basing, near Basingstoke, which proved to be *Procellaria puffinus* of Linn. . . . the Shearwater."

Bury mentions a specimen obtained at Yarmouth, in the Isle of Wight, in 1836,¹ and Hadfield has recorded one procured near the Needles on June 14th, 1867.²

¹ "Zoologist." 1845. ² "Zoologist." 1867.

Mr. Hart considers it a regular visitor to Christchurch Bay during the autumn months, and has examples obtained in 1873, 1874, 1885 and 1890.

Mr. J. Young recorded one which was shot on Blackwell Common in the New Forest, in October, 1891.¹

278. *Puffinus gravis*. Greater Shearwater.

A rare accidental visitor.

In the Hart collection at Christchurch are specimens procured in that neighbourhood in 1878 and 1894.

We know of no other occurrences in the county.

It is an inhabitant of the Atlantic Ocean.

Mr. Howard Saunders, in the second edition of his "Manual," has pointed out that the name *P. major* was given by Faber, in 1822, to a bird which was probably of this species, but in 1818, O'Reilly had already described and figured the bird under the name of *P. gravis*.

279. *Puffinus yelkouanus*. Levantine Shearwater.

An accidental visitor.

Mr. Hart has one in his collection, which was obtained in Christchurch Bay, in August, 1859. It was seen and identified by Mr. H. E. Dresser.

This species has not been included in any previous Hampshire list.

It is an inhabitant of the Mediterranean.

¹ "Field."

GENUS—*Fulmarus*.**280. *Fulmarus glacialis*. Fulmar.**

An accidental visitor to our coasts in winter.

There are two specimens in the Hart collection, obtained near Christchurch, in November, 1863 ; and January, 1880.

One was procured off the Island in 1876.¹

ORDER—PYGOPODES.FAMILY—*Colymbidæ*.GENUS—*Colymbus*.**281. *Colymbus glacialis*. Great Northern Diver.**

A winter visitor to the coast, rarely occurring inland.

Young birds are not uncommonly met with along our coasts, as they keep fairly near the shore, while the old birds remain further out at sea.

The following well-known passage in Gilbert White's "Observations," is taken from his Journal of January, 1789 :—"As one of my neighbours was traversing Wolmer Forest, from Bramshot, across the moors, he found a large, uncommon bird fluttering in the heath, but not wounded, which he brought home alive. On examination, it proved to be *Colymbus glacialis*, Linn., the great speckled diver or loon, which is most excellently described in Willoughby's Ornithology."

He then describes its peculiarities so accurately and

¹ Hadfield. "Zoologist." 1877.

ingeniously that Markwick is moved to remark that those observations which tend "to set forth in a proper light the wonderful works of God in the creation, and to point out His wisdom in adapting the singular form and position of the limbs of this bird to the peculiar mode in which it is destined to pass the greatest part of its life, in an element much denser than the air, do Mr. White credit, not only as a naturalist, but as a man and as a philosopher, in the truest sense of the word, in my opinion ; for were we enabled to trace the works of Nature minutely and accurately, we should find, not only that every bird, but every creature, was equally well adapted to the purpose for which it was intended ; though this fitness and propriety of form is more striking in such animals as are destined to any uncommon mode of life." ¹

Bell remarks that a specimen was once brought to him from the same locality, and there is also a young male in the Alton Museum which was captured at Medstead in January, 1866.

On the other side of the county it has occurred at Fordingbridge (Rev. J. P. Bartlett), and there are two specimens in the Earl of Malmesbury's collection.

Mr. Hart also has specimens in his collection, one in summer plumage, obtained October 7th 1876, and one in winter plumage, procured January, 1886.

Mr. Meade-Waldo says it is very rarely obtained except in winter plumage.²

More³ speaks of their sometimes remaining off the Isle of Wight as late as April, and Dr. Cowper⁴ confirms

¹ "Natural History of Selborne." Harting's Edition, p. 333.

² "Victoria History of Hants."

³ "Birds of the Isle of Wight." 1860.

⁴ "Hants Court Guide." 1897.

the remark made above, that it is chiefly immature birds which are obtained.

Mr. Willett records one caught alive on the river at Newport a few years back.

282. *Colymbus adamsi*. **Yellow-billed Diver.**

An accidental visitor.

The Rev. Canon S. G. Scott, Rector of Havant, has a specimen which was obtained in Emsworth Harbour, in the winter of 1895-6.

It is a native of Arctic America and Asia.

283. *Colymbus arcticus*. **Black-throated Diver.**

An occasional winter visitor to the coast.

A beautiful male specimen was shot at Rooksbury Park, near Wickham, on January 9th, 1867¹; but it is of exceptional occurrence inland.

Mr. Hart has a specimen in his collection, in summer plumage, procured in 1874, and another, in winter plumage, obtained in February, 1888.

In the Isle of Wight, More² says it has been shot several times in Bembridge and other localities; but Dr. Cowper³ says it is distinctly rare, though it used to occur in Brading Harbour before it was reclaimed.

¹ Arthur Crichton. "Zoologist." 1867.

² "Birds of the Isle of Wight." 1860.

³ "Hants Court Guide."

Mr. Willett notes a specimen shot on the river at Newport.

It is certainly much less common than either the great northern or the red-throated species.

284. *Colymbus septentrionalis*. Red-throated Diver.

A common winter visitor to the coast.

Mr. Hart says they are found in his district from August until May, and examples in summer plumage are frequently procured.

The Earl of Malmesbury has two specimens in his collection at Heron Court, one of which was shot on the Stour at Iford, in February, 1827, by Admiral Sir Edward Fitz-Harris.

There is a specimen in the Alton Museum which was procured at Newton Valence in the autumn of 1893.

Bury¹ relates that on April 24th, 1839, one, which had been swallowed, was rescued alive from the jaws of a fishing-frog (*Lophius piscatorius*), the body of the bird being in its stomach, and the head protruding from its throat into the mouth. It was pulled out, and lived for six months afterwards in the Zoological Society's Gardens; but the fish was nearly dead.

¹ "Notes on the Birds of the Isle of Wight." "Zoologist." 1845.

FAMILY—*Podicipidæ*.GENUS—*Podiceps*.**285. *Podiceps cristatus*. Great Crested Grebe.**

A scarce resident in the north-east part of the county, occurring elsewhere, especially on the coast, in winter.

This bird was always reckoned as a winter visitor to this county until about ten years ago, when two or three pairs were discovered nesting at Fleet Pond, where they may now be seen at any time in the summer, close to the railway, in their remarkable breeding-plumage, by travellers on the South-Western main line.

Dr. P. L. Sclater, late Secretary of the Zoological Society, informs us that this bird also nests on Tundry Lake, in Dogmersfield Park, in the same part of the county.

A third locality — Wolmer Pond — is mentioned by Mr. Aubyn Trevor-Battye, in the "Victoria History of Hants"¹; but the establishment of military camps in the vicinity and the greater traffic through this part of Wolmer Forest, have driven the birds away, for there are none to be found now on the pond.

If the birds are protected and encouraged, as they ought to be, they will doubtless colonize suitable waters in other parts of the county.

Among numerous records of the occurrence of this species in winter we select the following :—

One shot by a gamekeeper near Blackwater Ferry on the Stour, in the winter of 1813-14, and now in Lord Malmesbury's collection.

¹ Vol. I., page 6.

Four captured at St. Catherine's Down, in the Isle of Wight, on a foggy day in March, 1841.¹ Wise says² that it "appears every winter in Christchurch Harbour, and may be seen just cresting the waves, as they break under the Barton Cliffs. Mr. Rake informs me that specimens were killed at Breamore, November, 1855, and again, January, 1856."

Mr. Hart has specimens obtained in winter plumage in January, 1872, and in summer plumage in April, 1877, and May, 1883.

The example in the Winchester College Museum is dated Stockbridge, 1883.

Modern authorities consider it rare in the Isle of Wight; Mr. Poole, of Shanklin, has a specimen shot in Brading Harbour.

286. *Podiceps griseigena*. Red-necked Grebe.

An occasional visitor to the coast in winter.

Mr. Hart, of Christchurch, has obtained specimens in winter plumage in October, 1876, and in summer plumage in March, 1877, and February, 1879.

Bury and More mention that several specimens have been obtained off the Isle of Wight.

Mr. W. K. Murrill, of Southsea, wrote as follows to the "Field," in January, 1895:—

"On December 19th I shot a specimen of that somewhat rare bird, the red-necked grebe (*Podiceps rubri-collis*), in Langston Harbour. Although so late in the year it has still decided remains of the rich chesnut neck of the adult in summer."

¹ Bury. "Zoologist." 1845. ² "New Forest."

Mr. Pearce had previously recorded the species from the same neighbourhood.

It is a native of Southern Norway, Denmark, and North Germany, and its range extends throughout the Baltic and Russia from Archangel to the Black and Caspian Seas.

287. *Podiceps auritus*. Slavonian Grebe.

A regular winter visitor to the coast, and more common than the last.

On January 14th, 1814, Hawker killed a "dusky grebe," which he calls in his game-list, "a kind of black and white sea-dabchick";—it was probably a bird of this species.¹

Mr. Hart has specimens in winter plumage dated January, 1860, and February, 1863; and one in summer plumage, April 26th, 1878.

The Earl of Malmesbury has one example in his collection at Heron Court.

More reckoned it as a regular winter visitor to the Isle of Wight; and Dr. Cowper² mentions a female specimen shot near Sandown, in the winter of 1895.

This is a northern species which spreads southwards in winter.

288. *Podiceps nigricollis*. Eared Grebe.

An occasional visitor to the coast during winter and spring.

¹ For Dusky Grebe, see "Yarrell," Vol. iv., page 132.

² "Hants Court Guide."

Our earliest record relates to the Isle of Wight.

More calls it "a bird long sought amongst the numerous dusky grebes that frequent our shores in winter, but the only authentic specimen yet found is one that was killed off Sea View, in December, 1858, in company with a young horned (Sclavonian) grebe which fell to the same shot." He then proceeds to give a careful description of the plumage.

Mr. Hart has specimens procured near Christchurch in April and May, 1863; December, 1876; and November, 1880.

In the Winchester College Museum are specimens obtained at Stockbridge, in 1883, and near Portchester, in 1900.

Unlike the last, this is a southern species, which migrates as far to the north-west as the British Islands, usually in spring and winter, to escape the colder climate of the Continent. It is a native of the countries bordering the Mediterranean and Black Seas.

GENUS—*Tachybaptus*.

289. *Tachybaptus fluviatilis*. Little Grebe.

DABCHICK. DI-DAPPER. DAVERCHICK.

A common resident, universally distributed in all districts on the mainland, and occurring in considerable numbers in some places.

Much less common in the Isle of Wight, but also resident there.

Gilbert White mentions in Letter xlii. to Barrington

that—"dabchicks . . . fly erect, with their legs hanging down, and hardly make any despatch."

It was not long after White's death that our Hampshire dabchicks made another appearance in English literature in the pages of Jane Austen's "Persuasion," where we read that Louisa Musgrave "starts and wriggles like a young dabchick in the water."

And there is an amusing account of the bird's habits, as observed on the Itchen, in Mr. Hudson's "Hampshire Days."¹

A floating nest of decaying vegetation is usually made by this bird, which may be seen hurriedly gathering the material round the eggs, to cover them up, before leaving them. The same nest is frequently used a second time if the first clutch has been taken; and a nest found at Overton on April 15th, 1904, contained five eggs, which were taken, but on May 3rd, six more eggs had been laid in the same nest, evidently by the same bird. Four eggs are usually laid.

In the Island, West-mill Pond, a former resort, has been long since drained, but Mr. Poole, of Shanklin, has seen it near Newchurch at the end of the summer, and Mr. E. J. Barton, of Brading, has observed it in Brading Marshes. It is more frequently seen in winter, and even on the open sea.

¹ Pp. 279, etc.

FAMILY—*Alcidæ*.GENUS—*Alca*.**290. *Alca torda*. Razor-bill.**

A common resident on the coast.

This bird nests in the cliffs of the Isle of Wight, and visits all parts of the coast, very rarely wandering inland.

Warner, writing in 1795, says that it is "found among the lofty crags of Freshwater and St. Christopher's Cliffs, about the beginning of May. It is customary," he says, "with many of the islanders to descend the tremendous precipices where they are found, by the assistance of a strong rope, attached to a crow-bar fixed in the ground above. When the eggs are gotten, they may be purchased at about nine pence the dozen ; and being boiled hard, are by many people much esteemed."

Numbers of this species, as well as guillemots, are washed up on our shores in winter.

A specimen in the Alton Museum was found many years ago at Anthony's Folly, and another was obtained in the autumn of 1893, on Neatham Down, in the same neighbourhood.¹

The example in the Winchester College Museum was procured at Stockbridge in 1887.

¹ "History of Alton."

GENUS—*Lomvia*.291. *Lomvia troile*. **Guillemot.**

WILLOCK. WILLIE.

A common resident on the coast, nesting in great numbers on the Freshwater Cliffs, and in smaller numbers on the Culvers.

Of two in the Earl of Malmesbury's collection, one was shot by the second Earl under the Needle Cliffs in 1810, and the other knocked down with a riding-whip by the Hon. Charles Harris (afterwards Bishop of Gibraltar) near Boscombe, in November, 1827.

The bird is naturally rare inland, but the specimen in the Alton Museum was obtained near the local cemetery in January, 1887.

The ringed or bridled variety frequently occurs on the coast. Mr. Hart considers its proportion to be about one in twenty of the common form.

[*Lomvia bruennichi*. Brünnich's Guillemot.

The only record of this species within the county's limits is so doubtful that we only, with hesitation, include it in our list.

More states ¹ that one "was obtained by Mr. Rogers, of Freshwater, February 7th, 1860."

No trace of this specimen can be found, and More

¹ "Birds of the Isle of Wight." 1860

writing to Kelsall from Dublin in March, 1889, says of this record—"an error, I believe; I never saw it."

It was not included in Kelsall's or Mr. Meade-Waldo's lists.]

GENUS—*Uria*.

292. *Uria grylle*. Black Guillemot.

An occasional visitor to the coast in winter.

More states¹ that one was shot off Yarmouth in 1853 or 1854, and came under the notice of the late Frederick Bond.

Mr. Hart's specimens were obtained near Christchurch on January 18th, 1862; December 16th, 1866; November 13th, 1875; and December, 1891.

Hadfield recorded an occurrence near Freshwater, in the Isle of Wight, in the autumn of 1888.²

The Charterhouse Museum contains an example from Portsmouth.

Mr. Mansell-Pleydell³ records one in the collection of Mr. Bury, of Branksome Tower, which was shot by him off Christchurch Beach.

The specimen in the Winchester College collection is in adult summer plumage, and is dated "Southampton Water, 1888," but we are inclined to doubt the correctness of the locality, as specimens in this plumage would be extremely rare on our coasts, and Mr. Chalkley kindly tells us that he is now unable to find out when and where it was killed, the person who obtained it being dead.

¹ "Birds of the Isle of Wight." 1860.

² "Zoologist." January, 1889.

³ "Birds of Dorset."

GENUS—*Mergulus*.**293. *Mergulus alle*. Little Auk.**

An occasional visitor to the coast in winter, sometimes numerous, and frequently blown far inland in stormy weather.

Our first record is from a far inland locality. Gilbert White, writing to Pennant in November, 1773, says that "Two years ago last spring, the little auk was found alive and unhurt, but fluttering and unable to rise, in a lane a few miles from Alresford, where there is a great lake; it was kept awhile, but died."

In a footnote on this passage, Bell mentions that a living specimen was brought to him on November 19th, 1861, from Le Court, near Alton, which he afterwards placed in the local museum.

Lord Northesk has recorded one from Longwood in November, 1884.

In January, 1895, there was quite an irruption into the county. Specimens were reported from the New Forest (Lord Lilford); Heron Court (Lord Malmesbury); and Wield, near Alton (Alton Museum), during this month.

It has also occurred at Newton Stacey (Turle).

GENUS—*Fratercula*.**294.** *Fratercula arctica*. **Puffin.**

A summer visitor to the coast.

This bird visits the Freshwater Cliffs to breed in fair numbers, arriving in April and leaving at the end of August, and rarely occurring in winter.

Mr. Hart has specimens procured on January 29th, 1886, and January 4th, 1890.

Mr. Poole informs us that many are washed up on the shores of the Island in winter.

The late Prebendary Gordon wrote to Kelsall that a specimen was found at Hawkley, near Petersfield, in November, 1892; and the Alton Museum contains another obtained at Froyle during the same month.

The larger form (*F. glacialis*) is said to have been once met with in the Island;—see “Zoologist,” 1868, p. 6858; Venables’ “Guide to the Isle of Wight,” p. 434; and “Ibis,” 1865, p. 212.

APPENDIX.

ICTERINE WARBLER (*Hypolais icterina*).—A young female specimen of this warbler was taken by Mr. T. G. Cutting, at the St. Catherine's Lighthouse, Isle of Wight, in the early hours of the morning of September 29th, 1905. The bird was sent in the flesh, with other migrants, to Mr. H. F. Witherby, one of the members of the British Ornithologists' Club Migration Committee. Mr. Witherby identified the bird, and exhibited it at the meeting of the Club held on October 18th, 1905.—Cf. Bulletin B.O.C., Vol. XVI., p. 23.

This forms the first record for the Icterine warbler in Hampshire, and adds one more species to the list of accidental visitors to the county, bringing the total number of species up to 296. There are only some twelve other authentic records of its occurrence in the British Islands.

AQUATIC WARBLER (*Acrocephalus aquaticus*) p. 30.—On the same occasion as the above a young female aquatic warbler was taken at St. Catherine's Lighthouse, and forwarded, with some sedge warblers and other migrants, to Mr. Witherby. This specimen, which is the third recorded

for Hampshire, was also exhibited at the meeting of the British Ornithologists' Club on October 18th, 1905.—Cf. Bulletin B.O.C., Vol. XVI., p. 23.

LONG-EARED OWL, p. 127.—Gilbert White was certainly acquainted with this bird, which he called "Our common Horned Owl."—Bell's Edition of White's Selborne. Vol. II., p. 9.

BLACK-HEADED GULL, p. 334.—During the last few years the gulls have betaken themselves for nesting to a marshy spot on East Parley Common, called Whitemere, a short distance to the east of Parley Gibbet, and therefore just within the boundary of our county. They arrive there in April, and remain until July; their numbers here have increased annually, so that, in 1905, they must have been there in thousands.

INDEX.

- Acanthyllis caudacuta*, 101
Accentor, Alpine, 34
Accentor collaris, 34
 ,, *modularis*, 34
Accentorinae, 34
Accipiter nisus, 160
Accipitres, 137
Acredula rosea, 37
Acrocephalus aquaticus, 30, 359
 ,, *palustris*, 29
 ,, *phragmitis*, 31
 ,, *streperus*, 28
 ,, *turdoides*, 30
Ægialitis cantiana, 286
 ,, *curonica*, 286
 ,, *hiaticula*, 287
 ,, *vocifera*, 287
Agelæus phœniceus, 78
Alauda arborea 94
 ,, *arvensis*, 94
 ,, *cristata*, 97
Alaudidæ, 94
Alca torda, 354
Alcedinidæ, 110
Alcedo ispida, 110
Alcidæ, 354
Alectorides, 275
Alpine Accentor, 34
American Bittern, 204
American Green-winged Teal, 231
Ampelidæ, 52
Ampelis garrulus, 52
Anas boscas, 224
Anatidæ, 209
Anser albifrons, 212
 ,, *brachyrhynchus*, 210
 ,, *cinereus*, 209
 ,, *segetum*, 210
Anseres, 209
Anthus campestris, 46
 ,, *obscurus*, 47
 ,, *pratensis*, 45
 ,, *richardi*, 46
 ,, *spipoletta*, 46
Anthus trivialis, 45
Aquatic Warbler, 30, 359
Aquila chrysaëtus, 153
 ,, *clanga*, 152
Archibuteo lagopus, 151
Arctic Tern, 324
Ardea cinerea, 192
 ,, *garzetta*, 199
 ,, *purpurea*, 198
 ,, *ralloides*, 199
Ardeidæ, 192
Ardetta minuta, 200
Ash-coloured Harrier, 143
Asio brachyotus, 129
 ,, *otus*, 127, 360
Asionidæ, 127
Astur palumbarius, 159
Athene noctua, 136
Auk, Little, 357
Avocet, 291

Baillon's Crake, 271
Bald Coot, 275
Bargander, 219
Barley-bird, 44, 108
Barnacle Goose, 214
Barn-owl, 124
Bar-tailed Godwit, 321
Beam-bird, 53
Bean-goose, 210
Bearded Titmouse, 36
Bee-eater, 113
Bernicla brenta, 213
 ,, *canadensis*, 215
 ,, *leucopsis*, 214
Bewick's Swan, 219
Bittern, 201
 ,, *American*, 204
 ,, *Little*, 200
Black-backed Gull, Greater, 333
 ,, *Lesser*, 332
Blackbird, 7
 ,, *French*, 22

- Blackcap, 19, 38
 Black Cock, 264
 Black Grouse, 264
 „ Guillemot, 356
 „ Redstart, 13
 „ Tern, 328
 „ „ White-winged, 327
 „ Woodpecker, Great, 104
 Black-headed Bunting, 76
 „ Gull, 334, 360
 Blacktail, 3
 Black-tailed Godwit, 321
 Black-throated Diver, 347
 Black-winged Stilt, 292
 Blue Hawk, 139
 Blue Rock, 252
 Bluethroat, Red-spotted, 15
 „ White-spotted, 14
 Blue Titmouse, 39
 Blue-headed Yellow Wagtail, 44
 Bottle-tit, 37
 Botaurus lentiginosus, 204
 „ stellaris, 201
 Brambling, 65
 Brent Goose, 213
 British Coal Titmouse, 38
 „ Long-tailed Titmouse, 37
 Brook-runner, 267
 Brown Owl, 131
 Brünnich's Guillemot, 355
 Bubo ignavus, 135
 Buffon's Skua, 341
 Bullfinch, 67
 Bull Thrush, 1
 Bunting, Cirl, 73
 „ Common, 72
 „ Corn, 72
 „ Lapland, 77
 „ Ortolan, 76
 „ Reed, 76
 „ Snow, 77
 „ Yellow, 72
 Bunt-Lark, 72
 Burrow-duck, 219
 Bustard, Great, 276
 „ Little, 279
 Butcher-bird, 50
 Buteo vulgaris, 148
 Butty-Lark, 45
 Buzzard, 148
 „ Honey, 163
 „ Moor, 137
 „ Rough-legged, 151
 Caccabis rufa, 258
 Caffin, Long-tailed, 37
 Calandrella brachydactyla, 97
 Calcarius lapponicus, 77
 Calidris arenaria, 310
 Canada Goose, 215
 Capercaillie, 267
 Caper, Long-tailed, 37
 Caprimulgidae, 101
 Caprimulgus europæus, 101
 Carduelis elegans, 59
 Carrion Crow, 84
 Caspian Tern, 326
 Certhia familiaris, 58
 Certhiidae, 58
 Chaffinch, 63
 Cham-chider, 31
 Channy, 31
 Charadriidae, 284
 Charadrius pluvialis, 285
 Chaulelasmus streperus, 227
 Chelidon urbica, 56
 Chenalopex ægyptiacus, 209
 Chiffchaff, 25
 Chink, 63
 Chinker, 62
 Chough, 80
 Chrysomitris spinus, 59
 Churn-owl, 101
 Ciconia alba, 204
 Ciconiidae, 204
 Cinclidae, 35
 Cinclus aquaticus, 35
 Circus æruginosus, 137
 „ cineraceus, 143
 „ cyaneus, 139
 Cirl Bunting, 73
 Clangula glaucion, 239
 Clod-Lark, 72
 Coal Titmouse, British, 38
 Coccothraustes vulgaris, 61
 Coccozyus americanus, 121
 Cock, Black, 264
 Collared Pratincole, 283
 Columba livia, 252
 „ œnas, 248
 „ palumbus, 246
 Columbae, 246
 Columbidae, 246
 Colymbidae, 345
 Colymbus adamsi, 347
 „ arcticus, 347
 „ glacialis, 345
 „ septentrionalis, 348
 Common Bunting, 72
 „ Gull, 333
 „ Sandpiper, 310

- Common Scoter, 241
 " Sheldrake, 219
 " Skua, 339
 " Snipe, 302
 " Teal, 229
 " Tern, 325
 Coot, 275
 Coracias garrula, 112
 Coraciidæ, 112
 Cormorant, 188
 " Green, 190
 Corn-Bunting, 72
 Corn-Crake, 272
 Corvidæ, 80
 Corvus corax, 87
 " cornix, 84
 " corone, 84
 " frugilegus, 85
 " monedula, 83
 Cotile riparia, 57
 Coturnix communis, 261
 Courser, Cream-coloured, 284
 Cow-bird, 61
 Crane, Baillon's, 271
 " Corn, 272
 " Little, 271
 " Spotted, 268
 Crane, 275
 Cream-coloured Courser, 284
 Creeper, Tree, 58
 Crested Grebe, Great, 349
 Crested Lark, 97
 Crested Titmouse, 40
 Crex pratensis, 272
 Crossbill, 68
 " Parrot, 69, 70
 " Two-barred, 71
 Crow, Carrion, 84
 " Grey, 84
 " Hooded, 84
 " Royston, 84
 Cuckoo, 119
 " Yellow-billed, 121
 Cuckoo's-mate, 108
 Cuculidæ, 119
 Cuculus canorus, 119
 Curlew, 280, 323
 Curlew Sandpiper, 307
 Curlew, Stone, 280
 Curre, 233
 " Ginging, 239
 " Red-headed, 237
 Cursorius gallicus, 284
 Cyanecula suecica, 15
 " wolff, 14
 Cygnus bewicki, 219
 Cygnus immutabilis, 217
 " musicus, 218
 " olor, 216
 Cypselidæ, 98
 Cypselus apus, 98
 " melba, 100
 Dabchick, 352
 Dafila acuta, 224
 Dartford Warbler, 22
 Daulias lusciniæ, 16
 Daverchick, 352
 Dendrocopus major, 105
 " minor, 106
 Di-dapper, 352
 Dipper, 35
 Dishwasher, 43
 Diver, Black-throated, 347
 " Great Northern, 345
 " Lough, 246
 " Red-throated, 348
 " Yellow-billed, 347
 Dotterel, 288
 Dove, Ring, 246
 " Rock, 252
 " Stock, 248
 " Turtle, 253
 Duck, Burrow, 219
 " Eider, 240
 " Long-tailed, 240
 " Tufted, 233
 " White-eyed, 238
 " Wild, 224
 Dun-bird, 237
 Dun-diver, 243
 Dunlin, 306
 Eagle, Golden, 153
 " Sea, 155
 " Spotted, 152
 " White-tailed, 155
 Eagle Owl, 135
 Eared Grebe, 351
 Egret, Little, 199
 Egyptian Goose, 209
 Eider Duck, 240
 Emberiza cirrus, 73
 " citrinella, 72
 " hortulana, 76
 " miliaria, 72
 " schœniclus, 76
 Emberizinae, 72
 Erithacus rubecula, 16
 Eudromias morinellus, 288
 Eve-jar, 101

- Falco æsalon*, 181
 „ *peregrinus*, 172
 „ *subbuteo*, 177
Falconidæ, 137
Falcon, *Peregrine*, 172
 „ *Red-footed*, 184
Fanner, 185
Fern-owl, 101
Fieldfare, 3
Fire-crest, 25
Fire-tail, 13
Fish-Hawk, 186
Flamingo, 207
Flycatcher, *Pied*, 54
 „ *Spotted*, 53
Fork-tailed Petrel, 342
Fratercula arctica, 358
 „ *glacialis*, 358
French Blackbird, 22
 „ *Partridge*, 258
Fringilla cælebs, 63
 „ *montifringilla*, 65
Fringillidæ, 59
Fulica atra, 275
Fulicariæ, 267
Fuligula cristata, 233
 „ *ferina*, 237
 „ *marila*, 237
 „ *rufina*, 233
Full Snipe, 302
Fulmar, 345
Fulmarus glacialis, 345
Furze-chat, 12
Furze-hacker, 12

Gadwall, 227
Gallinæ, 255
Gallinago cœlestis, 302
 „ *major*, 302
Gallinula chloropus, 274
Gallinule, *Martinique*, 274
 „ *Purple*, 273
Gannet, 191
Garden Warbler, 21
Garganey, 228
Garrulus glandarius, 82
Gaviæ, 324
Gecinus viridis, 107
Ginging Curre, 239
Gingler, 239
Glareola pratincola, 283
Glareolidæ, 283
Glaucous Gull, 330
Glossy Ibis, 207
Goat-sucker, 101

Godwit, *Bar-tailed*, 321
 „ *Black-tailed*, 321
Goldcrest, 24
Gold-crested Wren, 24
Golden Eagle, 153
Golden-eye, 239
Golden Oriole, 47
 „ *Plover*, 285
Goldfinch, 59
Goosander, 243
Goose, *Barnacle*, 214
 „ *Bean*, 210
 „ *Brent*, 213
 „ *Canada*, 215
 „ *Egyptian*, 209
 „ *Grey*, 210
 „ *Grey Lag*, 209
 „ *Laughing*, 213
 „ *Pink-footed*, 210
 „ *White-fronted*, 212
 „ *Wild*, 210
Goshawk, 159
Grasshopper Warbler, 32
Gray-hen, 264
Great Black Woodpecker, 104
 „ *Bustard*, 276
 „ *Crested Grebe*, 349
 „ *Grey Shrike*, 48
 „ „ „ *Pallas's*, 49
 „ *Northern Diver*, 345
 „ *Plover*, 280
 „ *Reed-Warbler*, 30
 „ *Snipe*, 302
 „ *Spotted Woodpecker*, 105
 „ *Titmouse*, 38
Greater Black-backed Gull, 333
 „ *Shearwater*, 344
Grebe, *Eared*, 351
 „ *Great Crested*, 349
 „ *Little*, 352
 „ *Red-necked*, 350
 „ *Slavonian*, 351
Green Cormorant, 190
Greenfinch, 60
Green Linnet, 60
Green Plover, 289
Green Sandpiper, 313
Greenshank, 319
Green-winged Teal, *American*, 231
Green Woodpecker, 107
Grey Crow, 84
Grey Lag Goose, 209
 „ *Linnet*, 65
 „ *Phalarope*, 294
 „ *Plover*, 285
 „ *Shrike*, *Great*, 48

- Grey Shrike, Lesser, 50
 „ „ Pallas's Great, 49
 „ Wagtail, 43
 Griffon Vulture, 137
 Grosbeak, Pine, 67
 Grouse, Black, 264
 „ Pallas's Sand, 253
 „ Red, 263
 Gruidæ, 275
 Grus communis, 275
 Guillemot, 355
 „ Black, 356
 „ Brünnich's, 355
 Gull, Black-headed, 334, 360
 „ Common, 333
 „ Glaucous, 330
 „ Greater Black-backed, 333
 „ Herring, 331
 „ Iceland, 330
 „ Lesser Black-backed, 332
 „ Little, 336
 „ Peewit, 334, 360
 „ Sabine's, 337
 „ Saddle-Back, 333
 Gull-billed Tern, 326
 Gyps fulvus, 137

 Hæmantopus ostralegus, 290
 Haliaëtus albicilla, 155
 Hammer, Yellow, 72
 Harelda glacialis, 240
 Harrier, Ash-coloured, 143
 „ Hen, 139
 „ Marsh, 137
 „ Montagu's, 143
 Hawfinch, 61
 Hawk, Blue, 139
 „ Fish, 186
 „ Mullet, 186
 „ Night, 101
 „ Sparrow, 160
 „ Van-winged, 177
 Heath-poult, 264
 Hedge-Sparrow, 34
 Helodromas ochropus, 313
 Hen, Gray, 264
 Hen Harrier, 139
 Hern, 192
 Herodiones, 192
 Heron, 192
 „ Night, 200
 „ Purple, 198
 „ Squacco, 199
 Herring-Gull, 331
 Himantopus candidus, 292

 Hirundinidæ, candidus, 55
 Hirundo rustica, 55
 Hobby, 177
 Holm Screech, 1
 Honey Buzzard, 163
 Hooded Crow, 84
 „ Merganser, 245
 Hooper, 218
 Hoopoe, 113
 Horned Owl, 127, 360
 Horse-Match, 11
 Horse-Musher, 11
 House-Sparrow, 62
 Hydrochelidon hybrida, 327
 „ leucoptera, 327
 „ nigra, 328
 Hypolais icterina, 359

 Ibis, Glossy, 207
 Iceland Gull, 330
 Icteridæ, 78
 Icterine Warbler, 359
 Isle of Wight Parson, 188
 Iynx torquilla, 108

 Jack Baker, 50
 Jackdaw, 83
 Jack Hern, 192
 Jack Snipe, 305
 Jay, 82
 Jay-bird, 82
 Jenny Wren, 41

 Kentish Plover, 286
 Kestrel, 185
 „ Lesser, 186
 Killdeer Plover, 287
 Kingfisher, 110
 Kite, 162
 Kittiwake, 329
 Knot, 308

 Lagopus scoticus, 263
 Land-rail, 272
 Laniidæ, 48
 Lanius collurio, 50
 „ excubitor, 48
 „ major, 49
 „ minor, 50
 „ pomeranus, 51
 Lapland Bunting, 77
 Lapwing, 289
 Lark, Crested, 97

- Lark, Shore, 98
 " Short-toed, 97
 " Sky, 94
 " Wood, 94
 Laridæ, 324
 Larus argentatus, 331
 " canus, 333
 " fuscus, 332
 " glaucus, 330
 " leucopterus, 330
 " marinus, 333
 " minutus, 336
 " ridibundus, 334, 360
 Leach's Petrel, 342
 Lesser Black-backed Gull, 332
 " Grey Shrike, 50
 " Kestrel, 186
 " Redpoll, 66
 " Spotted Woodpecker, 106
 " Whitethroat, 19
 Levantine Shearwater, 344
 Ligurinus chloris, 60
 Limicolæ, 280
 Limnocryptes gallinula, 305
 Limosa ægocephala, 321
 " lapponica, 321
 Linnet, 65
 " Grey, 65
 Linota cannabina, 65
 " flavirostris, 67
 " linaria, 66
 " rufescens, 66
 Little Auk, 357
 " Bittern, 200
 " Bustard, 279
 " Crake, 271
 " Egret, 199
 " Eten Bird, 108
 " Grebe, 352
 " Gull, 336
 " Owl, 136
 " Ringed Plover, 286
 " Stint, 307
 " Tern, 325
 Locustella nævia, 32
 Lomvia bruennichi, 355
 " troile, 355
 Long-eared Owl, 127, 360
 Long-tailed Calfin, 37
 Long-tailed Capon, 37
 Long-tailed Duck, 240
 Long-tailed Titmouse, British, 37
 Lough Diver, 246
 Loxia bifasciata, 71
 " curvirostra, 68
 Loxinæ, 67
 Machetes pugnax, 309
 Macrorhamphus griseus, 320
 Magpie, 82
 Mallard, 224
 Manx Shearwater, 343
 Mareca penelope, 221
 Marsh-Harrier, 137
 Marsh-Titmouse, 39
 Marsh-Warbler, 29
 Martin, 56
 " Sand, 57
 Martinique gallinule, 274
 Mavis, 2
 May-bird, 322
 Meadow-Pipit, 45
 Mealy Redpoll, 66
 Melizophilus undatus, 22
 Merganser, Hooded, 245
 " Red-breasted, 244
 Mergulus alle, 357
 Mergus albellus, 245
 " cucullatus, 245
 " merganser, 243
 " serrator, 244
 Merlin, 181
 Meropidæ, 113
 Merops apiaster, 113
 Milvus ictinus, 162
 Missel-Thrush, 1
 Molly, 43
 " Yellow, 44
 Montagu's Harrier, 143
 Monticola saxatilis, 11
 Moor-hen, 274
 Moor-Buzzard, 137
 Morillon, 239
 Motacilla alba, 42
 " flava, 44
 " lugubris, 43
 " melanope, 43
 " raii, 44
 Motacillidæ, 42
 Mud-dabber, 40
 Mud-stopper, 40
 Muffy Whitethroat, 18
 Mullet-hawk, 186
 Muscicapa atricapilla, 54
 " grisola, 53
 Muscicapidæ, 53
 Mute Swan, 216
 Needle-tailed Swift, 101
 Nettle-creeper, 18
 Nettlemonger, 18
 Nightingale, 16

- Night-jar, 101
 Night-hawk, 101
 Night-Heron, 200
 Norfolk Plover, 280
 Northern Diver, Great, 345
 Nucifraga caryocatactes, 81
 Numenius arquata, 323
 ,, phaeopus, 322
 Nuthatch, 40
 Nutcracker, 81
 Nyctala tengmalmi, 133
 Nyctea scandiaca, 133
 Nycticorax griseus, 200
 Nyroca ferruginea, 238

 Oceanites oceanicus, 343
 Odontoglossæ, 207
 Cedemia fusca, 242
 ,, nigra, 241
 Cedicnemidæ, 280
 Cedicnemus scolopax, 280
 Olive, 290
 Oriole, Golden, 47
 Oriolidæ, 47
 Oriolus galbula, 47
 Ortolan Bunting, 76
 Osprey, 186
 Otididæ, 276
 Otis tarda, 276
 ,, tetrax, 279
 Otocorys alpestris, 98
 Ouzel, Ring, 8
 Owl, Barn, 124
 ,, Brown, 131
 ,, Eagle, 135
 ,, Horned, 127, 360
 ,, Little, 136
 ,, Long-eared, 127, 360
 ,, Scops, 134
 ,, Screech, 124
 ,, Short-eared, 129
 ,, Snowy, 133
 ,, Tawny, 131
 ,, Tengmalm's, 133
 ,, White, 124
 ,, Woodcock, 129
 Oxbird, 287, 306
 Ox-eye, 38
 Oystercatcher, 290

 Pallas's Great Grey Shrike, 49
 ,, Sand-Grouse, 253
 Pandion haliaëtus, 186
 Panuridæ, 36

 Panurus biarmicus, 36
 Paridæ, 37
 Parrot Crossbill, 69, 70
 Parson, Isle of Wight, 188
 Partridge, 260
 ,, French, 258
 ,, Red-legged, 258
 Parus britannicus, 38
 ,, coeruleus, 39
 ,, cristatus, 40
 ,, major, 38
 ,, palustris, 39
 Passer domesticus, 62
 ,, montanus, 63
 Passeres, 1
 Pastor, Rose-coloured, 79
 Pastor roseus, 79
 Peewit, 289
 ,, Gull, 334, 360
 Peggy, 18
 Pelecanidæ, 188
 Perdix cinerea, 260
 Peregrine Falcon, 172
 Pernis apivorus, 163
 Petrel, Fork-tailed, 342
 ,, Leach's, 342
 ,, Storm, 341
 ,, Wilson's, 343
 Phalacrocorax carbo, 188
 ,, graculus, 190
 Phalarope, Grey, 294
 ,, Red-necked, 292
 Phalaropus fulicarius, 294
 ,, hyperboreus, 292
 Phasianidæ, 255
 Phasianus colchicus, 255
 Pheasant, 255
 Phœnicopteridæ, 207
 Phœnicopterus roseus, 207
 Phylloscopus rufus, 25
 ,, trochilus, 26
 ,, sibilatrix, 27
 Picaræ, 98
 Pica rustica, 82
 Picidæ, 104
 Picinæ, 104
 Picus martius, 104
 Pied Wagtail, 43
 ,, Flycatcher, 54
 Pigeon, Wood, 246
 Pine Grosbeak, 67
 Pinicola enucleator, 67
 Pink-footed Goose, 210
 Pintail, 224
 Pipit, Meadow, 45
 ,, Richard's, 46

- Pipit, Rock, 47
 " Tawny, 46
 Tree, 45
 Water, 46
 Platalea leucorodia, 206
 Plataleidae, 206
 Plectrophanes nivalis, 77
 Plegadis falcinellus, 207
 Plover, Golden, 285
 " Great, 280
 " Green, 289
 " Grey, 285
 " Kentish, 286
 " Killdeer, 287
 " Little Ringed, 286
 " Norfolk, 280
 " Ringed, 287
 Pochard, 237
 " Red-crested, 233
 " Red-headed, 237
 Podiceps auritus, 351
 " cristatus, 349
 " griseigena, 350
 " nigricollis, 351
 Podicipidae, 349
 Poker, 237
 Polish Swan, 217
 Pomatorhine Skua, 339
 Pope, 50
 Porphyrio coeruleus, 273
 " martinicus, 274
 Porzana bailloni, 271
 " maruetta, 268
 " parva, 271
 Poult, Heath, 264
 Pratincola rubetra, 12
 " rubicola, 12
 Pratincole, Collared, 283
 Procellaria leucorrhœa, 342
 " pelagica, 341
 Procellariidae, 341
 Pterocletes, 253
 Pteroclidæ, 253
 Puckeridge, 101
 Pudding-bird, 37
 Puffin, 358
 Puffinus anglorum, 343
 " gravis, 344
 " major, 344
 " yelkouanus, 344
 Purple Gallinule, 273
 " Heron, 198
 " Sandpiper, 308
 Pygopodes, 345
 Pyrrhocorax graculus, 80
 Pyrrhula europæa, 67
 Quail, 261
 Querquedula carolinensis, 231
 " circia, 228
 " crecca, 229
 Rail, Land, 272
 " Water, 267
 Rallidae, 267
 Rallus aquaticus, 267
 Raven, 87
 Razorbill, 354
 Recurvirostra avocetta, 291
 Red-backed Shrike, 50
 Redbreast, 16
 Red-breasted Merganser, 244
 " " Snipe, 320
 Red-crested Pochard, 233
 Red-footed Falcon, 184
 Red Grouse, 263
 Red-headed Curlew, 237
 Red-headed Pochard, 237
 Red-legged Partridge, 258
 Red-necked Grebe, 350
 Red-necked Phalarope, 292
 Redpoll, Lesser, 66
 Redpoll, Mealy, 66
 Redshank, 316
 " Spotted, 318
 Red-spotted Bluethroat, 15
 Redstart, 13
 " Black, 13
 Red-throated Diver, 348
 Redwing, 3
 Red-winged Starling, 78
 Reed-Bunting, 76
 Reed-Sparrow, 76
 Reed-Warbler, 28
 Reed-Wren, 28
 Reeve, 309
 Regulus cristatus, 24
 " ignicapillus, 25
 Richard's Pipit, 46
 Richardson's Skua, 340
 Rinding-bird, 108
 Ring-Dove, 246
 Ringed Plover, 287
 " " Little, 286
 Ring-ouzel, 8
 Ring-tail, 139
 Rissa tridactyla, 329
 Robin, 16
 Rock-Dove, 252
 Rock-Pipit, 47
 Rock-Thrush, 11
 Roller, 112

- Rook, 85
 Rose-coloured Pastor, 79
 Rough-legged Buzzard, 151
 Royston Crow, 84
 Ruddy Sheldrake, 221
 Ruff, 309
Ruticilla phœnicurus, 13
 ,, *titys*, 13

 Sabine's Gull, 337
 ,, Snipe, 304
 Saddle-back Gull, 333
 Sanderling, 310
 Sand-Grouse, Pallas's, 253
 Sand-Martin, 57
 Sandpiper, Common, 310
 ,, Curlew, 307
 ,, Green, 313
 ,, Purple, 308
 ,, White-rumped, 313
 ,, Wood, 316
 Sandwich Tern, 327
Saxicola œnanthe, 11
 Scaup, 237
 Sclavonian Grebe, 351
 Scolopacidæ, 291
Scolopax rusticula, 295
 Scops giu, 134
 Scops Owl, 134
 Scoter, Common, 241
 ,, Velvet, 242
 Screaming Devil, 98
 Screecher, 98
 Screech-Owl, 124
 Scutty, 41
 Sea-Eagle, 155
 Sea-Pie, 290
 Sea-Swallow, 325
 Sedge-Bird, 31
 Sedge-Warbler, 31
 Serin, 60
Serinus hortulanus, 60
 Shag, 190
 Shearwater, Greater, 344
 ,, Levantine, 344
 ,, Manx, 343
 Sheldrake, Common, 219
 ,, Ruddy, 221
 Shore-Lark, 98
 Short-eared Owl, 129
 Short-toed Lark, 97
 Shoveller, 232
 Shrike, Great Grey, 48
 ,, Pallas's Great Grey, 49
 ,, Lesser Grey, 50

 Shrike, Red-backed, 50
 Siberian Thrush, 7
 Siskin, 59
Sitta cæsia, 40
 Sittidæ, 40
 Skua, Buffon's, 341
 ,, Common, 339
 ,, Pomatorhine, 339
 ,, Richardson's, 340
 Sky-Lark, 94
 Smew, 245
 Snake-bird, 108
 Snipe, Common, 302
 ,, Full, 302
 ,, Great, 302
 ,, Jack, 305
 ,, Red-breasted, 320
 ,, Sabine's, 304
 ,, Summer, 310
 Snow Bunting, 77
 Snowy Owl, 133
Somateria mollissima, 240
 Song-Thrush, 2
 Sparrow, Hedge, 34
 ,, House, 62
 ,, Reed, 76
 ,, Tree, 63
 Sparrow-Hawk, 160
Spatula clypeata, 232
 Spear-Sparrow, 76
 Spire-Chatter, 31
 Spoonbill, 206
 Spotted Crane, 268
 ,, Eagle, 152
 ,, Fly-catcher, 53
 ,, Redshank, 318
 ,, Woodpecker, Great, 105
 ,, Lesser, 106
 Squacco Heron, 199
Squatarola helvetica, 285
 Squawking Thrush, 1
 Squeaker, 98
 Starling, 78
 ,, Red-winged, 78
 Steganopodes, 188
Stercorariinæ, 339
Stercorarius catarrhactes, 339
 ,, *crepidatus*, 340
 ,, *parasiticus*, 341
 ,, *pomatorhinus*, 339
Sterna anglica, 326
 ,, *cantiaca*, 327
 ,, *caspia*, 326
 ,, *fluviatilis*, 325
 ,, *macrura*, 324
 ,, *minuta*, 325

- Sterninæ, 324
 Stilt, Black-winged, 292
 Stint, Little, 307
 „ Temminck's, 307
 Stock-Dove, 248
 Stonechat, 12
 Stone-chatter, 12
 Stone-Curlew, 280
 Stone-hacker, 12
 Stork, White, 204
 Storm Cock, 1
 Storm-Petrel, 341
 Streptopelia interpres, 290
 Striges, 124
 Strigidae, 124
 Strix flammea, 124
 Sturnidae, 78
 Sturnus vulgaris, 78
 Sula bassana, 191
 Summer Snipe, 310
 Swallow, 55
 Swan, Bewick's, 219
 „ Mute, 216
 „ Polish, 217
 „ Whooper, 218
 „ Wild, 218
 Swift, 98
 „ Needle-tailed, 101
 „ White-bellied, 100
 Sylvia atricapilla, 19
 „ cinerea, 18
 „ curruca, 19
 „ hortensis, 21
 Sylviinæ, 18
 Syrniolum aluco, 131
 Syrrhaptes paradoxus, 253

 Tachybaptus fluviatilis, 352
 Tadorna casarca, 221
 „ cornuta, 219
 Tawny Owl, 131
 „ Pipit, 46
 Teal, American Green-winged, 231
 „ Common, 229
 Temminck's Stint, 307
 Tengmalm's Owl, 133
 Tern, Arctic, 324
 „ Black, 328
 „ Caspian, 326
 „ Common, 325
 „ Gull-billed, 326
 „ Little, 325
 „ Sandwich, 327
 „ Whiskered, 327
 „ White-winged Black, 327

 Tetraonidae, 263
 Tetrao tetrix, 264
 „ urogallus, 267
 Thick-knee, 280
 Thristle, 2
 Thrush, Missel, 1
 „ Rock, 11
 „ Siberian, 7
 „ Song, 2
 „ White's, 5
 Thumb-bird, 24
 Tinnunculus alaudarius, 185
 „ cenchris, 186
 „ vespertinus, 184
 Titlark, 45
 Titmouse, Bearded, 36
 „ Blue, 39
 „ British Coal, 38
 „ — „ Long-tailed, 37
 „ Crested, 40
 „ Great, 38
 „ Marsh, 39
 Tittrel, 322
 Tom Thumb, 24
 Tom-tit, 38
 Totanus calidris, 316
 „ canescens, 319
 „ fuscus, 318
 „ glareola, 316
 Tree-climber, 40, 58
 Tree-creeper, 58
 Tree-runner, 58
 Tree-Pipit, 45
 Tree-Sparrow, 63
 Tringa alpina, 306
 „ canutus, 308
 „ minuta, 307
 „ striata, 308
 „ subarquata, 307
 „ temmincki, 307
 Tringoides hypoleucus, 310
 Troglodytes parvulus, 41
 Troglodytidae, 41
 Tubinares, 341
 Tufted Duck, 233
 Turdidae, 1
 Turdinæ, 1
 Turdus iliacus, 3
 „ merula, 7
 „ musicus, 2
 „ pilaris, 3
 „ sibiricus, 7
 „ torquatus, 8
 „ varius, 5
 „ viscivorus, 1
 Turnstone, 290

Turtle Dove, 253
 Turtur communis, 253
 Twite, 67
 Two-barred Crossbill, 71

Upupa epops, 113
 Upupidæ, 113
 Uria grylle, 356

Vanellus vulgaris, 289
 Van-winged Hawk, 177
 Velvet Scoter, 242
 Vulture, Griffon, 137
 Vulturidæ, 137

Wagtail, Blue-headed Yellow, 44
 „ Grey, 43
 „ Pied, 43
 „ Water, 43
 „ White, 42
 „ Yellow, 44

Wall-bird, 53

Warbler, Aquatic, 30, 359
 „ Dartford, 22
 „ Garden, 21
 „ Grasshopper, 32
 „ Great Reed, 30
 „ Icterine, 359
 „ Marsh, 29
 „ Reed, 28
 „ Sedge, 31
 „ Willow, 26
 „ Wood, 27

Water-hen, 274
 Water-Pipit, 46
 Water-Rail, 267
 Water-Wagtail, 43
 Waxwing, 52
 Weather, 1
 Weet-bird, 108
 Wheatear, 11
 Whimbrel, 322
 Whinchat, 12
 Whiskered Tern, 327
 White-bellied Swift, 100
 White-eyed Duck, 238
 White-fronted Goose, 212
 White Owl, 124

White-rump, 11
 White-rumped Sandpiper, 313
 White-spotted Bluethroat, 14
 White Stork, 204
 White-tailed Eagle, 155
 Whitethroat, 18
 „ Lesser, 19
 White's Thrush, 5
 White Wagtail, 42
 White-winged Black Tern, 327
 Whooper Swan, 218
 Widgeon, 221
 Wild Duck, 224
 Wild Swan, 218
 Willie, 355
 Willock, 355
 Willow-Warbler, 26
 „ Wren, 26
 Wilson's Petrel, 343
 Wind Thrush, 1
 Windhover, 185
 Woodchat, 51
 Woodcock, 295
 „ Owl, 129
 Wood-Lark, 94
 Woodnacker, 107
 Woodpecker, Great Black, 104
 „ Great Spotted, 105
 „ Green, 107
 „ Lesser Spotted, 106
 Woodpie, 105
 Wood-Pigeon, 246
 Wood-Sandpiper, 316
 Woodwall, 105
 Wood-Warbler, 27
 „ Wren, 27
 Wren, 41
 Wryneck, 108

Xema sabinii, 337

Yaffingale, 107
 Yaffle, 107
 Yellow-billed Diver, 347
 „ „ Cuckoo, 121
 „ Bunting, 72
 „ Hammer, 72
 „ Molly, 44
 „ Wagtail, 44
 „ „ Blue-headed, 44



To Illustrate "THE BIRDS OF HAMPSHIRE AND THE ISLE OF WIGHT."



3 2044 107 222 119

Date Due

MAY 9 1968

